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For Immediate Release

The American Heritage Association Accuses Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg of Likely Heritage Act Violation

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg's office admitted to removing the Robert E. Lee Memorial from the Charleston School of Math and Science in a December 29th letter sent to the American Heritage Association (AHA). The AHA believes this action to be in direct violation of South Carolina's Heritage Act. The Mayor's decision to remove this cherished historical monument appears to be his unilateral action since the AHA has been unable to discover any record of City Council's approval. Last week, the Charleston City Council reinforced its support of the preservation of our memorials by specifically voting to prohibit the new Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission from recommending monument removals in violation of the Heritage Act.

American Heritage Association (AHA) President Brett Barry said, ***"Mayor Tecklenburg has a history of ignoring law and order. First, he failed to prevent rioters from sacking King Street in 2020, then he rewarded them with the removal of the Calhoun monument and now he has taken, what appears to be, unilateral action to violate state law."*** The American Heritage Association is currently supporting a lawsuit against the City of Charleston for its removal of the John C. Calhoun monument and is now considering all legal options and remedies to have the Lee Memorial re-erected in its original state as soon as possible.

Professor of History, and AHA Board Member, Kyle S. Sinisi stated, ***"In 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote that Robert E. Lee was 'one of the supremely gifted men produced by our nation.' What was true in 1960 remains true today. Lee's virtues and character are timeless, and they are worthy of emulation for all generations of Americans to come."***

The AHA is currently investigating the likelihood that this action constitutes *"Misconduct in Office."* South Carolina recognizes the common law offense of misconduct in office. This crime occurs "when duties imposed by law have not been properly and faithfully discharged." *State v. Hess*, 279 S.C. 14, 20, 301 S.E.2d 547 (1983). The AHA is committed to supporting the Heritage Act and its enforcement in South Carolina.

The American Heritage Association is a non-profit based in Charleston, SC which is dedicated to the preservation of America's national memory and the principles upon which it was founded.

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