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## Site 44HE1203 (Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground) and other archaeological sites

5 messages

**LENORA MCQUEEN** <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Sun, Feb 20, 2022 at 10:52 PM

To: Julie Langan <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>, NPS <abpp@nps.gov>, Emily <emily\_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob\_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric\_mink@nps.gov>, Ray <ray\_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew\_virta@nps.gov>, Robert <robert\_mocko@nps.gov>, Megan M <megan\_bailey@nps.gov>, Maureen <maureen\_joseph@nps.gov>, Tammy <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>, Laurel <laurel\_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel\_Gorder@nps.gov" <joel\_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison\_Young@nps.gov" <allison\_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl\_sams@nps.gov>, Mark D <mark\_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne\_o'Neill@nps.gov" <anne\_o'Neill@nps.gov>, Robert <bob\_krick@nps.gov>, "helen\_mahan@nps.gov" <helen\_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Justin S." <jspatton@pwccgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historicrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historicrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>, "Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpva.virginia.gov>, "Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, Timothy <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, Karen <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>, Marc Wagner <marc.wagner@dhr.virginia.gov>, Lena McDonald <lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov>, Jolene Smith <jolene.smith@dhr.virginia.gov>, Joanna Green <joanna.wilson@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Whaley, James (Kaine)" <james\_whaley@kaine.senate.gov>, Charity Howell <charity.howell@mail.house.gov>

Dear Ms. Langan; et al;

I am writing to ask for your assistance please. I am seeking a fuller explanation as to why my maps for site (44HE1203) can not be publicly shown? This is what I am being told. And why will maps in general regarding the site (44HE1203) be removed from public view? There seems to me to be something very wrong with this. It does not make any sense to me at all. The images below were publicly shown by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project continuously for over 3 years. These images were in the draft EIS, the final EIS, and the Record of Decision. They were shown from 2018 until just recently. They were available for anyone and everyone to see, at any time. Access to them was unrestricted. And these maps inaccurately depicted site 44HE1203. They painted a totally distorted picture of that burial ground.

I don't understand what this site being classified as an archaeological resource has to do with anything. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is only being classified as an archaeological resource because of its long history of not being considered "sensitive". Some archaeological sites may need protection from unwanted attention, but this site is not one of them. This site was made to disappear from all maps after it last appeared in 1905. This invisibility has allowed for its modern day mistreatment. This site demands more attention, not less. It demands to be seen, as well as heard. Transparency and full disclosure is what this site needs, and not a cloaking device that will help hide the wrongs being committed against it. The DC2RVA high-speed rail project and the proposed widening of I-64 are the current threats to this site 44HE1203. It's not the public that this site needs to be protected from.

The P.I.F. for the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District received unanimous approval from the State Review Board on September 17, 2020. The P.I.F. was made publicly available prior to the State Review Board Meeting. It has been publicly available online ever since by DHR. It contains maps of the historic district and the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, and the City Hospital / Colored Alms House site. The same map has also been published in the newspaper more than once.

With permission from DHR, the nomination has been posted publicly since right after it was submitted to DHR. It includes all of the maps. It was stressed to us by DHR that this is a public process. The maps were also shown at the online meeting for property owners and adjacent property owners. We were asked to make the presentation publicly available after the meeting. DHR also hosted a public meeting on February 9th. The maps were shown in the public presentation. That presentation was then made publicly available on YouTube by DHR. It is still publicly available on YouTube. Clearly the public sharing of the maps that depict the burial ground as an archeological site or otherwise is not a danger to this burial ground. What is a danger to it is to allow conditions that will help hide mistreatment to sites. Keeping maps hidden from the public allows for mistreatment. Site 44HE1203 was misdefined, misdepicted, minimized. It was mistreated by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project. A 31 acre site was minimized to 3.3 acres and pushed 90 to 100 feet southwest, and out of the way of high speed rail. If those maps were kept private, that would never have been noticed. No one would have known any better. Images of the maps should not be removed from public view. If the maps of site 44HE1203 were not public, I would not have seen how this site was being mistreated. And based on what was done to this site, the possibility exists that the same thing could have been done to others. I hope that is not the case, but it is absolutely possible. Hiding those maps from the public will hide mistreatment if any exists. How will any one know if a site has been misdefined, if someone who might care enough to look, can't do so. It is important that the maps remain public and that they not be hidden. The public deserves to know how these sites are being depicted and how they will be impacted. In the case of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground the impact will be great...it will be a whole lot different than what the DC2RVA high-speed rail project publicly showed it would be in images for over 3 years.

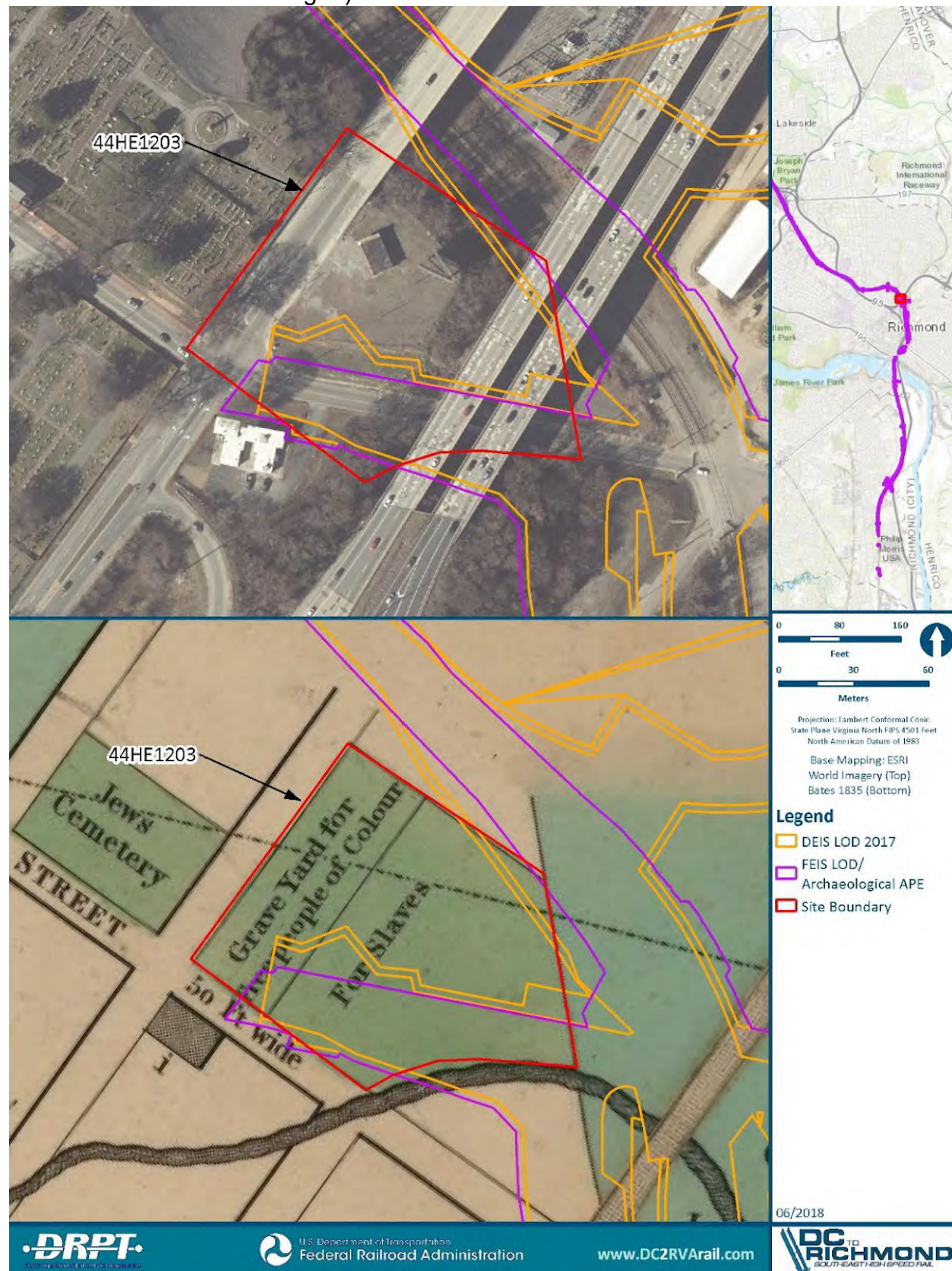
Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora

Lenora McQueen

Below: long time publicly displayed inaccurate maps that minimize the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground to is 1835 size and push it out of the way of high-speed rail (90 - 100 feet to the southwest of where it belonged)







**Langan, Julie** <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 1:53 PM

To: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Cc: NPS <abpp@nps.gov>, Emily <emily\_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob\_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric\_mink@nps.gov>, Ray <ray\_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew\_virta@nps.gov>, Robert <robert\_mocko@nps.gov>, Megan M <megan\_bailey@nps.gov>, Maureen <maureen\_joseph@nps.gov>, Tammy <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>, Laurel <laurel\_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel\_Gorder@nps.gov" <joel\_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison\_Young@nps.gov" <allison\_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl\_sams@nps.gov>, Mark D <mark\_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne\_o'Neill@nps.gov" <anne\_o'Neill@nps.gov>, Robert <bob\_krick@nps.gov>, "helen\_mahan@nps.gov" <helen\_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Justin S." <jspatton@pwccgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org"

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Dear Ms. McQueen:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email. I will be back in touch shortly with a response.

Sincerely,

Julie V. Langan  
 Director/State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Department of Historic Resources  
 2801 Kensington Avenue  
 Richmond, VA 23221  
 Office: (804) 482-6087  
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**COVID-19 Update: DHR is open for business and the majority of staff is teleworking. Our offices are temporarily closed to the public.**

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**Langan, Julie** <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>

Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 9:25 AM

To: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Cc: NPS <abpp@nps.gov>, Emily <emily\_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob\_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric\_mink@nps.gov>, Ray <ray\_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew\_virta@nps.gov>, Robert <robert\_mocko@nps.gov>, Megan M <megan\_bailey@nps.gov>, Maureen <maureen\_joseph@nps.gov>, Tammy <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>, Laurel <laurel\_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel\_Gorder@nps.gov" <joel\_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison\_Young@nps.gov" <allison\_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl\_sams@nps.gov>, Mark D <mark\_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne\_o'neill@nps.gov" <anne\_o'neill@nps.gov>, Robert <bob\_krick@nps.gov>, "helen\_mahan@nps.gov" <helen\_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Justin S." <jspatton@pwccgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF

<jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historicrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historicrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>, "Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, Karen <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>, Marc Wagner <marc.wagner@dhr.virginia.gov>, Lena McDonald <lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov>, Jolene Smith <jolene.smith@dhr.virginia.gov>, Joanna Green <joanna.wilson@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Whaley, James (Kaine)" <james\_whaley@kaine.senate.gov>, Charity Howell <charity.howell@mail.house.gov>, Timothy Roberts <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Samantha Henderson <samantha.henderson@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Ms. McQueen:

Thank you for your email dated February 20th in which you express your concern and confusion regarding the Department of Historic Resources' (DHR) policy regarding the public sharing of information concerning archaeological site 44HE1203. Having reviewed the matter, I can understand why you are confounded and appreciate you getting in touch with me so that I can respond to you directly.

By way of background, as a standard procedure, it is the Department's policy to comply with the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) which is a federal act aimed at protecting archaeological sites. We do this intentionally for the sole purpose of protecting and preserving the historic resources. We have no reason or desire to suppress information about historically-significant properties except when it would offer them protection.

The way in which DHR applies ARPA in practice is:

- It is our practice not to publish specific site locations for archaeological sites (anything more specific than buffered to ~.5 mile)
- We maintain a specific list of particularly sensitive types (based on cultural significance and/or risk of looting) and enforce additional protections.

When contemplating exceptions to this policy, we consider the following:

- Situations when site information is independent of location (excepting human burials and specifically sensitive site types)
- Sites whose locations and nature are already widely known to the public (museum interpretation, extensive web documentation, books, etc.)

In the case of the 123-mile DC2RVA high-speed rail project corridor, the various state and federal agencies collectively agreed early on that for consistency, it would be appropriate to protect the locations of all of the archaeological sites located within the long and complex project corridor. In fact, DHR advised FRA and



DRPT that this would be appropriate. DRPT and FRA's response to you was consistent with the advice they were previously given by DHR to comply with ARPA for this project.

That said, since that decision was made, circumstances related to this particular resource have changed. Maps have been widely distributed by various parties and the property in question has been going through the process of being registered. In fact, the entire register nomination is posted on DHR's website without any redactions. The nomination shares the locations of each contributing and noncontributing resource shown, including cemetery boundaries.

Thus, I believe a case can easily be made that the resources associated with Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground & Cemetery are generally known by the public and that it is, therefore, no longer necessary for DHR to continue to protect locational information.

I have conferred with DRPT, their consultant and FRA and we all mutually agreed that, given the current specific circumstances, there is no longer any benefit to restricting locational information concerning the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. In answer to your request, DRPT is working to post your correspondence, including maps, on the DC2RVA project website. Locational information for the remainder of the archaeological sites along the DC2RVA corridor will continue to be redacted per the original DHR guidance.

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**LENORA MCQUEEN** <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 11:49 AM

To: "Langan, Julie" <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>

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Dear Ms. Langan, et al;

thank you for informing me of the decision. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground deserves to be seen, and known. I greatly appreciate your help in this important matter.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Dan Mouer** <danmouer@fastmail.fm>

Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 1:57 PM

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Thank you, Ms Langham.

Dan Mouer

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