



## *News Release*

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# State to Inspect Lee Monument to Ensure Safe Removal

**Richmond, VA** – The Department of General Services issued the following statement about removing the Robert E. Lee monument in Richmond.

“The Department of General Services is dispatching crews to inspect the Robert E. Lee monument this morning. This is part of our planning to remove the statue as soon as possible, and to do it safely, as Governor Northam ordered.

“This is an old and heavy piece. The massive statue weighs approximately 12 tons, stands 21 feet tall, and has been on a 40-foot pedestal for 130 years. Meticulous planning is required to remove an aging monument of this size and scale safely.

“The monument will not be removed today.

“The Department is working with public safety partners to secure the area around the monument this morning so crews can work. We ask for your cooperation to ensure the safety of everyone on the ground—statue removal workers, neighbors, and everyone exercising their First Amendment rights. We also ask for your patience as the state works through this complex project.”

Analytical work is expected to be completed by mid-day. Traffic may be diverted during this time.

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