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1	VIRGINIA:
2	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
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4	FREDERICK PAYNE, et al.,
5	Plaintiffs,
6	Case No. -vs- CL17000145-00
7	CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, et al.,
8	Defendants.
9	**************
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11	EXCERPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
12	THE HONORABLE RICHARD E. MOORE, JUDGE
13	
14	May 2, 2017
15	Charlottesville, Virginia
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19	ORIGINAL
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21	May 17, 2017 1:28p
22	(Date & Time) City of Charlottesville
23	Circuit Court Clerk's Office Liezelle Ar Dugger, Clerk
24	Job No. 33401 By Over Structure Deputy Clerk
25	REPORTED BY: Kimberly A. Adderley, RPR, RMR

1	Excerpt of proceedings before The Honorable
2	Richard E. Moore, Judge, reported by
3	Kimberly A. Adderley, RPR, RMR, Notary Public in
4	and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at large,
5	May 2, 2017, at the Circuit Court for the City of
6	Charlottesville, 315 East High Street,
7	Charlottesville, Virginia.
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Job # 33401	Hearing - Injuction Hearing - Ruling of the Court	5/2/2017
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1 (May 2, 2017)
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3 RULING:

THE COURT: All right. This might take a few minutes because there's a lot of issues and I really want to touch on as many as I can. And those of you who know me, know it's important to me that people understand why decisions are made and not just simply what the decisions are. So, I do take a little bit of time to explain some things.

Also, although I was tempted to put this off and read everything again, I don't think that's the best in this case. And I thought about this for days and I don't think looking into it is going to really change my decisions about the issues. It might give me better ways to say it, but I'm going to go ahead and announce my decision on what is before the Court today, which is just a temporary injunction. That's all this is.

As to the temporary injunction,
controlling law that I have used is in WINTER
VERSUS NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL,

which is a US Supreme Court case from 2008, and then REAL TRUTH ABOUT OBAMA, INC. VERSUS FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, which is a Fourth Circuit opinion, which we are in the Fourth Circuit, so it is binding on us to the extent that it touches on areas where Virginia doesn't have its own case law or statutes, and we don't on this definition. And that's from 2009.

But, REAL TRUTH essentially applied the

But, REAL TRUTH essentially applied the law from WINTER. And, I really don't think there's any dispute about that's the controlling law that we are under.

There are several issues that were presented in this case, and we are at an early stage. But, the main question we have been trying to work with today and consider today is not the ultimate merits of the case. It's not about who will win or lose, whether the statue of Robert E. Lee will be moved, whether the parks will be renamed. That's for another day.

The issue today is whether I grant a temporary injunction in some form to preserve the status quo until the case is decided in

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full. That's the only issue today.

There are subissues that are raised in the pleadings. A major one is whether 15.2-1812 of the Virginia Code, and 1812.1, and 18.2-137, whether they apply in this case, whether they apply to this statue or these statues.

There's some issues about whether a removal of the Lee statue, or the Jackson statue down the road, would trigger a reversionary clause in the deed, whether that's the basis of an injunction, nobody really argued that too much today.

But, the main issues under WINTER and REAL TRUTH is whether the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on the merits; whether there will be irreparable harm, likelihood of irreparable harm if the injunction is not issued; does the public interest weigh in favor of issuing the injunction to preserve the status quo; is the cost of removal a pertinent factor for me to consider in making the decision, as it impacts on the public interest, I think that would be the one place it would be relevant.

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There are other subissues that were important to me, they may not be as important to the public. And that is the interplay between the judicial and the legislative branches in our democratic process, or the interplay between the state and local legislative bodies.

And there was some mention of gift law and its impact on this decision. So, all of that is floating around here, the attorneys know the relevance of those.

But, it's a contentious issue in our community, it has been, everybody knows that. There are those who believe that it is an outrage to have a statue of a military leader and hero of the Confederacy in a major spot downtown when a primary goal of the Confederacy was the preservation of the right to determine your own way of life, which included slavery.

On the other hand, there are just as many who think it's an outrage to remove the statue that honors a man who was looked up to and revered by so many, and made a difficult choice to side with his state against that of

the Union of States, and a more difficult decision to surrender his troops at the end of the war instead of continuing to fight.

And he was an example to all, almost without dispute, of grace and submission in defeat.

And there was a quote that was offered,

I think by both parties, about the whole

point of this was working for peace and

moving on, which is exactly what some people

would say the whole tradition of Robert E.

Lee is.

But, both sides not only think that they are right, but they think that the other is plainly wrong. It's not uncommon in this courtroom, I see it all the time.

But, Charlottesville City Council in speaking for the people has made a decision. Essentially, siding with one group or opinion, they made their decision.

My decision, the Court's decision, is not about whether I agree or disagree with either side. That is not what it's about for me. It's not about whether I think the statue should or should not be moved. I really don't have an opinion on that in my

The only question I have before me in this case is a simple question. It's not necessarily an easy question, but it's a simple question of may City Council move the statue legally? That is the only question

Do they have the authority or

There were two main reasons the plaintiffs put forward, certainly in their pleadings, they didn't really address them equally today, but there were two as to why this action is not legal and it should be enjoined, at least temporarily, until we can hear this in court. One is under the statute, or statutes, and the other has to do

I simply can't find that the deed prevents City Council's action, at least in the context of a temporary injunction. can't find today on what I've heard that there is a likelihood of plaintiffs prevailing on the merits with regard to the impact of the gift or the deed. They may

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ultimately prevail on that. But, I've got to find that there's a likelihood of prevailing on that.

The problems I had with regard to that issue is, so far as I know, both parks would still be used as a park. That is what the deed requires; to be used as a park and have no buildings. There's no evidence to the contrary at this point that they would continue to use both of them as a park. And there's no evidence of any buildings being built.

Even if the property would revert to the original donors, I'm not sure that an injunction is something that should be used to keep property from reverting. If that is part of the concern, if a condition is not met, the property just reverts if the condition is not met.

As to the gift conditions -- and I remember back in law school there was an issue about gifts with conditions and without conditions. But, I don't think they were specific enough to bind the City not to do certain things with the property.

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1 As to the naming, I cannot agree with 2 the plaintiffs that what has been presented 3 would stop the City from renaming the parks. Number one, I didn't follow the authority 4 5 that says they can't because they have named 6 them up to this point. But, I don't think that would be irreparable harm if they did 7 rename the parks, because if I ultimately 8 9 rule there's no authority to do that, they 10 can just be renamed. I just can't find that 11 is irreparable harm to support a temporary injunction. 12 13 So, those are the plaintiffs' arguments that I did not find persuasive or dispositive 14 15 at this point in time. 16 But, as to the action of City Council 17 being contrary to the statute, I need to address that further, because my view is 18 19 that's a little bit different. City Council 20 is a legislative body or authority and it speaks for its people, it speaks for the 21 22 citizens and locality. The Court is the judicial branch. 23 24 some broad sense the Court might be seen as 25 speaking for the public. But, more

accurately, the Court speaks for justice, it's concept of justice, the Constitution, and for what it believes is right, proper, and authorized under law. So, that's a touchstone for the Court.

And, that's really what we call separation of powers. People hardly ever hear that, but sometimes in court it's a significant thing. Each branch of government has its own duties and authority, and the Court is not a legislative body or agency.

It's not up to the judicial branch to second guess the legislative branch or to substitute its judgment or opinion. Just as if the judgment is being appealed, like in a regular case, de novo, my role is simply to ensure they followed the rules and acted within their authority.

But, another legislative body, the General Assembly, the legislature of the Commonwealth, which is made up of the House of Delegates and the State Senate, has also spoken. And, it is not up to me to agree or disagree with the General Assembly either, but simply to interpret what laws they have

passed.

Those, as we learned in law school, are what we call political decisions, not meaning partisan party politics, but meaning the body politic, democratic decisions. That's what it means when it's a political decision, it's up to the people and their elected representatives. It's not up to me to meddle in that. I frankly don't care what the majority says. The judicial office is not a democratic position. I have to interpret the law and do what I think is the right thing.

So, the question for me goes back to the main one, do the statutes; 15.2-1812, 1812.1, and 18.2-137, do they apply to this statue?

And I think they do apply to the Robert E. Lee statue. I've got to work that out because I'm not granting everything that plaintiffs are asking, but the very reason that it's presence upset some people is that it is clearly a war memorial or a monument to a veteran of war. I mean, that's why people are upset about it. People had even made comments, and today we talked about the

artwork and the sculpture, but the horse, everybody said it's a war horse, it's the horse they rode in battle.

So, when I read 1812, it talks about,
"The erection of monuments or memorials for
any war or conflict, or for any engagement of
such war or conflict, to include the
following monuments or memorials: " And it
goes on to list several, including the War
Between the States, several before, several
after.

And then when I read 137, it talks about any person who unlawfully destroys, defaces, damages or removes without the intent to steal, any monument or memorial for war veterans as described in 1812. To me it's inescapable, it means to cover those statues. That's what it is.

I thought about this a lot. To think about the purpose of the statute, if we put this in the context of the Vietnam War, for many people that was an extremely unpopular war. As a nation, and in many communities, we treated disgracefully the veterans of that war, we all know that, even with tones of

self-righteousness, because many didn't agree with the ends of that war or the need for it, or the cost of it in dollars or lives. Many thought the war was wrong and fought anyway. And no monuments sprang up for those veterans right away. There wasn't a whole lot of honor bestowed on those veterans immediately, because many people disagreed with the ends of war. It was later remedied across the country.

But, the winds of popular opinion change. And for those whose relatives; whether they were husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, or even sisters and daughters, who died in the Vietnam War, if they were worried about popular opinion changing and somebody came along and said we shouldn't have done this, let's get rid of all the Vietnam War monuments, let's just get rid of them all, because that was wrong for us to do, I think this statute would stop that.

And this statute is directed to local authorities. It says, "If such are erected," and in an earlier generation of the statute is said, "If such shall be erected," and it

was changed to "are erected." To my
understanding, I think that's no different
than saying if they are built. A building is
built. I think it applies.

And it says, "It shall be unlawful," it doesn't say for anyone, it says, "for the authorities of the locality to disturb or interfere with," and that includes removal or damaging or defacing.

This is clearly directed to what is going on here, saying the locality can't remove one of these things unless the legislature passes another statute and allows it.

That's my opinion. I don't agree that this statute, as intended or as written, applies only to monuments built after that statute was passed. I don't think so. I think that strains credibility as to what would be in the mind of the General Assembly when they were passing that, when there were thousands of these monuments to the Revolutionary War, World War II, World War I, the War Between the States. There were thousands of these in existence at the time

this was passed. I cannot believe that in their mind they are thinking, "This doesn't apply to any of those, this only applies to ones in the future." I just don't agree with that.

And, in that regard, I disagree with

And, in that regard, I disagree with the opinion from Danville. I think that was dicta anyway, I don't think that finding was necessary for the decision in the Danville case. I think it was something that was thrown in, I think there was another point that was decided on that would have been dispositive.

But, I think it does apply and I think that moves us to the next question. I do think on that point, on that narrow point, I think the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on the merits because of my interpretation of 1812 and 1812.1 and 137. So, I think that prong is met.

I do think there's a likelihood of irreparable harm as to the Lee statue, not as to anything else. I think there's a significant likelihood that it's going to be damaged. I think it hasn't been rebutted,

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all they can say is maybe it won't be. you have got sculptors and other people that are mentioning the significance of it, it's 100 years old, and even if it's damaged, even if it can be patched up, it won't be the In my view that's irreparable harm. same. Not only if it's damaged, which I think it is likely to be damaged, but it can be sold. mean, that certainly has been part of the discussion. If it's sold, it's not coming So, nobody is going to buy it back. thinking, well, maybe they will come get it back from me.

But, I also think, furthermore, with a monument that's been there for 100 years, of this nature of art, it is irreparable harm for it to be gone for any significant period of time, in my view. It would be like let's move the Statue of Liberty for a few months, or let's take away the Washington Monument for a few months, people coming to D.C. or New York during those time periods, they have lost that, they can't get it back.

So, my interpretation is, for all three of those reasons, it is irreparable harm.

As far as being in the public interest,
I do think it's in the public interest until
this is resolved one way or the other to not
be tinkering with a 100-year-old statue
that's on the National Register, that City
Council for decades has been the one that's
been the driving force to preserve these
things, and now this is a different opinion.

I think it's in the public interest to wait and see. I also think it's in the public interest that if the plaintiffs prevail, that this is an unauthorized action under the statute, that they not be spending tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars doing it if it's unauthorized.

So, the public interest -- and certainly people have different opinions about that, and I understand that. But, I think the public interest, in my view, weighs in favor of preserving the status quo.

And, certainly, the final point is balancing. I think there's little harm to the defendants by my granting this temporary injunction. If they ultimately prevail and I ultimately say no, it's okay, you can do what

1 you want to do, they have not really lost 2 that much but some time. I just don't see 3 that. 4 Whereas, on the other hand, if I don't 5 grant the temporary injunction and it is 6 removed and sold or damaged, and then the 7 plaintiffs ultimately prevail, and then they 8 have to somehow trust that it's going to be 9 placed back in the place undamaged, or as it 10 was before. I just think balancing those 11 two, it makes a lot more sense to leave it 12 where it is until the case is decided. 13 So, the balance of the potential harm 14 to me weighs in favor of the temporary 15 injunction. 16 If Council is right and within their 17 authority, the statue is going to go, and 18 that is something that I and everybody else 19 is going to have to accept, because that's a 20 democratic decision. 21 But, if it's not authorized by the 22 statute, which is also a legislative 23 decision, we ought not let it go prematurely. 24 That's my view. We don't want to create a 25 situation where it would be impossible or

difficult to restore.

But, a temporary injunction or any injunction is an extraordinary remedy, it should be limited. So, I'm not enjoining the renaming. I don't think that's irreparable harm, and I'm not sure that even you would prevail on the merits. I don't see why that would be a problem.

I'm not enjoining any planning or designing to be prepared to move forward if the City ultimately prevails. And I don't see any irreparable harm from the planning or designing.

I'm not addressing the Jackson statue at all because there's been no resolution or ordinance to attempt to sell or move or damage that. And I don't think renaming the park is beyond a City Council's prerogative or their authority. And I don't think their redesigning it is either beyond their prerogative or authority, as long as it remains a park, there's no buildings put on it, and it doesn't interfere with the use and access to the statue.

There's a few other things, I just want

to be sure I've covered everything that I thought was pertinent.

I do find that the irreparable harm that I talked about would apply both to the plaintiffs, in particular, and the public in general. That's my view.

I do find that the standing issue is not really properly raised in the injunction stage, it's raised in the demurrer, which we have to get to later. But, in my view, it's been addressed and I think there is sufficient standing for enough of the plaintiffs that that would support the temporary injunction. You have got plaintiffs here who are residents of Charlottesville, property owners, taxpayers, people who visited the parks regularly, people who are directly involved in their preservation, and people involved in agencies that did so.

So, I think certainly taken together, without analyzing each one individually -- but, it is interesting to me on that point, on the standing, and the two organizations, which I have to check, the Virginia Division,

Sons for Confederate Veterans and the Monument Fund, it's interesting that in the statute, at the second paragraph of 15.2-1812, nobody really talked about that much, but it talks about sums of money to preserve or take care of these, and it says, "The governing body may also make a special levy to supplement funds already raised or that may be raised by private persons, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, or other organizations."

So, to me, they are anticipating other organizations that aren't named having an interest in the existence of these statues. For me that's even more reason to interpret the phrase in 15.2-1812.1(A)(1), which says, "Any person having an interest in the matter." Certainly that language in the second paragraph of 1812 would inform the first paragraph under 15.2-1812.1(A), that they obviously have an interest in it.

So, I don't have a problem with the standing. Even though it wasn't properly raised at this stage, I think it's been addressed adequately.

I also don't think that the plaintiffs have to wait until the damage is about to occur or until it does occur. If that were the case, the injunction really wouldn't do a whole lot of good if you have to wait until you are right on the brink.

In Judge Sweat's case it was referred to in passing, apparently part of his ruling in the previous case was the parties there waited too long, they didn't act quickly enough. So, maybe they were trying to be wise about it and then they waited too long.

As far as the money being spent without authority, to me that's just a factor on the public interest aspect of it.

As far as the irreparable harm goes, I saw that as four possibilities: One is the possible selling of the statute; the damage, which I think is likely; it's temporary absence; and also there was some allusion to other damage in the City's report to age-old trees and the terrain, and things like that. So, I do think all of that goes into irreparable harm.

I do think I need to put a time limit

on this under the statute. And I think six months is the limit on what I'm going to say. There can't be — the Lee statue cannot be moved, removed, moved or sold for six months. But, I'm going to reserve the right to revisit that if we have an earlier hearing. If we have other hearings within six months, on the demurrer, which could change this, or on any other issues, I'm not inviting motions from the plaintiffs or the defense, but sua sponte, if I feel like, after hearing further evidence, I want to revisit this within six months, I'm going to.

But, right now the injunction is for six months unless there's further order of the Court, only as to the moving of the Lee statue.

As far as it being a war memorial or a monument to veterans, whatever the different terminology, the fact that it's on the Civil War Trail and there's a sign right in front of the Lee statue, definitely leans in that direction, that it's clear what it is, and everybody knows what position he held and why it's there.

With regard to the plaintiffs' general objections to all this money being spent, the only touchstone for that is the public interest. I don't think that — that doesn't go towards irreparable harm, because if there is money wrongly spent, then it can simply be required to be paid back at some point as a part of the suit. If there's money that's being wrongly spent, at least that can be pursued and argued. So, I don't put that under irreparable harm, although it does touch on public interest.

And this is sort of a closing, I just want us to see how we got here. In one of the sections of 15.2-1812, it was illuminated to me, when you read down it and it talks about not disturbing, interfering with, removing, damaging, or defacing, and it says interfering with includes removing. But, then it goes on to say this: It also would include, "In the case of the War Between the States, the placement of Union markings or monuments on previously designated Confederate memorials."

A lot of people read that and say, "Oh,

yeah, there they are." But the next line says, "Or the placement of Confederate markings or monuments on previously designated Union memorials."

The only reason I say that is to point out when this statute was passed, it was talking about both sides of a historic conflict that will never go away from our nation's memory. But, this is talking about either way. And I just think that's important for us to remember.

I was as sincere as I could be at the beginning of this case when I said we are part of a community and we need to live that way and we need to listen to each other and respect each other, even when we disagree strongly. So, I just beg you to do that.

What I've decided today is simply that the evidence supports the Lee statue not being moved, because I think it conflicts with the state statute. But, nothing else I think needs to be done by me at this point in time. Everything else can wait for the trial of the ultimate issues. So, I'm not directing the City not to do anything else

-	Tuning or the Court	5/2/201
	except that.	
	If you have any questions, I will	try
	to clarify. Counsel. I'm not taking	
	questions from the gallery, but, if cour	ısel
	is not clear about anything I ruled.	
	And even though you lost on most of	of the
	points, you prevailed on the main thing,	I'm
	going to ask you to do the order.	
9	MR. PURYEAR: That was my question	ι,
1(Judge.	
11	THE COURT: And circulate it to th	.e
12	City's Attorney's Office.	
13	Counsel have any questions about m	Ŋ
14	ruling?	
15	MS. ROBERTSON: No.	
16	THE COURT: Thank you very much.	
17	MR. MAIN: Judge, I want to be sur	e,
18	though, we reserve the right to come bac	k for
19	subsequent hearings on injunctions depend	ding
20	on what ultimately the City plans	
21	THE COURT: Sure.	
22	MR. MAIN: to do.	
23	THE COURT: If they next pass some	thing
24	that says they are going to sell the Jack	cson
25	statue, you are not estopped from that.	I
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r	1	Walter Training of the boart 9/2/20
	1	just want to make it clear that I, on my own
	2	motion, could vary this if I feel it's
	3	appropriate to.
	4	This is simply a temporary ruling to
	5	preserve the status quo on one major point,
	6	and everything else just proceeds like we are
	7	going to trial. And we are going to trial on
	8	that, too, I mean, but the injunction is in
	9	place.
	10	Mr. Puryear, any other questions?
	11	MR. PURYEAR: Just like to note our
	12	exception to any rulings adverse to the
	13	plaintiffs' position.
	14	THE COURT: Certainly. And we will put
	15	that in the order.
	16	MR. PURYEAR: Yes, sir.
	17	THE COURT: The plaintiffs are going to
	18	object to just about everything I ruled,
	19	except to one, and you are going to object to
:	20	that, and strenuously.
1	21	MS. ROBERTSON: I will note my
2	22	exception for the record.
2	23	THE COURT: I understand that. And
2	24	everything is still under consideration as
2	25	the case develops.
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I appreciate everybody that's been in
the courtroom, the way you have conducted
yourself. It's an important thing for people
to see what goes on in our court system. I
really do believe that, because most people
never see it. But, you have taken your time
to spend basically all afternoon. But, I
thank you for the way you have paid attention
and listened.
Thank you.

MS. ROBERTSON: Your Honor, would it be possible to go ahead and set a date for the demurrer?

THE COURT: Without Miss Runner, I don't think so.

THE CLERK: Judge, she --

MR. MAIN: We can certainly contact her, Judge.

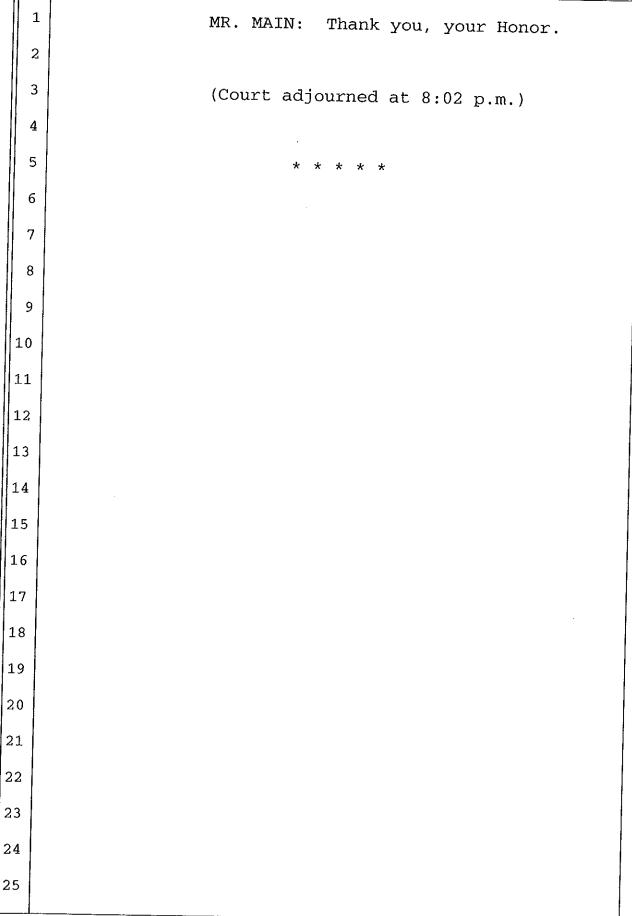
THE CLERK: -- would ask that we set it as a control for the June docket.

THE COURT: Okay. Let's do that.

Praecipe it for the June docket call, but you can preset it with her if you get some dates.

The main thing to be thinking about is how much time do you think you are going to want.

	If it is going to be just the demurrer for
	one hearing, that's easier, so a couple hours
	maybe.
	MR. MAIN: Yes, sir.
	THE COURT: So, somebody praecipe it
	for it's your demurrer, so you all should
	file the praecipe for the June docket.
8	MS. ROBERTSON: Right.
9	THE COURT: But, we can set it before
10	then. And, if there's anything else that
11	comes up, there might be other motions, just
12	set them in due course as they come up.
13	Okay.
14	MR. PURYEAR: Judge, I'm sorry, what is
15	your June docket date?
16	THE COURT: Nineteenth, I believe,
17	isn't it?
18	THE CLERK: Yes, sir.
19	THE COURT: June 19th. And civil cases
20	will be at 2:00. So, you praecipe it for
21	2:00. You don't have to be here, you can
22	submit letters with dates, avoid dates,
23	available dates, that would be fine.
24	Thank you to all of you.
25	MR. PURYEAR: Judge, thank you.
34) 29	200



11	- Villa
	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
] 3	I, Kimberly A. Adderley, RPR, RMR,
4	Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported to
5	the best of my ability the proceedings heard in the
6	Circuit Court for the City of Charlottesville,
7	Virginia, in the captioned cause, heard by The
8	Honorable Richard E. Moore, Judge of said Court, on
9	May 2, 2017.
10	I further certify that the foregoing
11	transcript constitutes a true and accurate excerpt
12	of said proceedings.
13	Given under my hand this 5th day of May,
14	2017.
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17	Birgberly addelley
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20	Kimberly A. Adderley, RPR, RMR, Notary Public
21	Notary Registration No. 273323
22	Commonwealth of Virginia at Large
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