

May 31, 2020

Good Evening,

We were sad to hear about the UDC Headquarters in Richmond. Below is an Email from Fran Towberman about the incident.

Confederate Memorial Park is doing well and secure at this time. We have people who have stepped up to monitor the Park. We have also contacted the Local Sheriff Dept. in St. Mary's County and we are working on placing a permanent Security System at Confederate Memorial Park.

Even with the virus, board members and we have been working hard at Confederate Memorial Park since January and we will be updating everyone with pictures soon.

If any has any questions please feel free to contact us.

Always for their Memory,

Jim and Christina Dunbar
Chairmen Confederate Memorial Park Inc.

Ladies,

This is a very sad day in the history of UDC. Saturday night about midnight, in the dark of night as cowards usually travel, there was a riot in Richmond. These people with a directed agenda hit various Confederate monuments down Monument Row spraying graffiti and attempting to bring them down. Then they turned on us.

Our building was covered with graffiti; windows were broken all across the front, in the dining room, in the pantry and across the very back.

The breaking point was when the curtains hanging out of the Goodlett Library window were set on fire and our building blazed. Thanks to the quick actions of Mary Valentino, Business Office Manager the majority of our building was saved.

When the riots started, Mary was at home and with the problems in Richmond she decided to monitor, from home, the security cameras surrounding the building. When she saw the people (about 150-250 people) approaching our building she called the police and then me. As she watched the mob of protesters on her phone she sent pictures to me. When she saw the smoke and then flames coming from the building she called the fire department. The police came with lights flashing and sirens on and the rioters left running. The fire department was close behind. Had it not been for Mary's dedication to her job, monitoring our building (on her time off) and calling the authorities, we might have lost everything.

Mary, Teresa Rhone and Terry O'Donahue all went to the building to assess the damage. They had to wait for the fire department to allow them to enter the building. It appears the fire was contained in the Goodlett Library but smoke and soot has covered every inch of the building and there is water damage to parts of the building. Teresa tells me all of the books in the Goodlett Library have some sort of damage but it can be days before a complete assessment can be made. She thought the shelves storing the Division History books and whatever else was in that area are a total loss.

I last talked to Mary about 3:30 AM CDT and the fire department had people there putting boards on our windows to secure the building. I have discussed with Mary the need for security around the building 24/7 for maybe a month. She will contact them tomorrow. We will also be talking to our insurance company and seeking safe storage for some of our items until all can be safely brought back into the building. We will need professional cleaners to bring the other areas back to a usable status. All carpets may have to be replaced. Cleanup is going to take a long time.

The building inspector told Mary that it will be wise to not go back into the building until at least Tuesday. This will let the smoke and gases from the fire clear the building. Please give the people in the Business Office some time to get their lives back together and then we can have business as usual.

There is a video of the event that was on twitter and Pam Trammell sent a copy of it to me and Mary who forwarded it to the police. We were told that if they can find the man filming the event and shouting direction to the crowd he can be charged with hate crimes, arson and inciting a riot to list a few items.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was not touched but the Virginia Historical Society had damage as well.

Prayers for UDC, prayers for our Business Office and the staff and prayers for these misguided, uneducated, simple minded people who follow these hate filled people like the pied piper. May they see the light and ask to be forgiven for their hateful actions.

Nelma Crutcher

President General UDC 2018-2020

Education is the Key, and may these people find some education soon