

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

"To be One Community Filled with Opportunity"

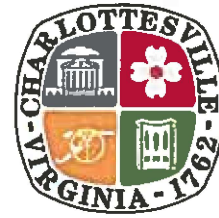
Office of The City Manager

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August 7, 2017

By Electronic and U.S. Mail

Dear Mr. Kessler:

I write on behalf of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation in reference to your May 30, 2017 application for a permit to conduct a demonstration in Emancipation Park on August 12, 2017. While demonstrations are typically handled through that Department, the unprecedented size and scope of your rally at its proposed Downtown location requires me, as the City official charged with the general supervision and control of City property, to review your request in light of its significant impact on the community.

Based on information provided to me by law enforcement officials, the City has decided to approve your application for a permit to hold a demonstration on the day and at the times requested, provided that you use McIntire Park, rather than Emancipation Park, for your demonstration. To the extent that the permit is deemed granted due to inaction within ten days of receipt of the application, the City hereby modifies the permit, based on the above-referenced information, to specify that the demonstration take place at McIntire Park. If you are unwilling to use the McIntire Park location, the permit for Emancipation Park is hereby denied pursuant to section 3.4.5 of the City's Standard Operating Procedure ("SOP") for Special Events and Demonstrations or, if the Permit is deemed granted due to inaction within ten days of receipt of the application, the City hereby revokes the permit pursuant to section 3.4.7 of the City SOP.

Your permit application states that the demonstration will consist of approximately 400 people. However, in recent days it has come to the City's attention that many thousands of individuals are likely to attend the demonstration. Because Emancipation Park is a relatively confined space of just over one acre in a densely populated urban area with limited parking space, it is unable to accommodate safely even a peaceful crowd of this size. The City's law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services personnel cannot adequately protect people and property in and around Emancipation Park due to the number of anticipated attendees trying to occupy such a small and confined space. The Police Department also anticipates that the presence of such a large demonstration in Emancipation Park would require the closing of a section of East Market Street, leading to massive traffic congestion and shutting down a principal means of ingress and egress, for the duration of the 5 hour rally.



Mr. Kessler
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A large demonstration at McIntire Park does not present the same problems. The use of McIntire Park will still require the deployment of considerable law enforcement resources, but the size, layout and other features of the Park will better enable the City's law enforcement and other emergency personnel to protect the attendees and the public. In contrast, holding such a large rally at Emancipation Park poses an unacceptable danger to public order and safety.

In our last conversation you were insistent that the rally take place at Emancipation Park. We ask that you reconsider that position. The City reserves all rights should you decide not to abide by the terms of your approved permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurice Jones".

Maurice Jones
City Manager