



Office of the Town Manager

Frank Cassidy

# STAFF REPORT

## Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor

Heather Sutphin, Ward 1

William Semple, Ward 2

Brett Hamby, Ward 3

James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor

Jay Heroux, Ward 5

Paul Mooney, At Large

David McGuire, At Large

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	BLM Vigil for Action Appeal Review
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Conduct the Required Appeal as Outlined in Town Ordinance
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Town Manager, Police Department, Special Events, Parks and Recreation
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Frank Cassidy, Martin Crim, Tommy Cureton

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BLM Vigil for Action is a special event that has been ongoing since 2020. It was organized by a consortium of six groups. The Vigil was held at the corner across from the courthouse at the intersection of Main Street, Waterloo Street and Alexandria Pike; property is referred to as 10 Courthouse Square. The location of the Vigil has attracted attention each week it has been held. The “attention” includes distracted drivers and pedestrians, and counter protesters.

Because of the documented safety issues created by this event, along with a recently received new application for a different event at that intersection, the BLM event was offered the use of Eva Walker Park. In addition, Chief of Police Timothy Carter and the Town’s special events team communicated to the BLM event that it would not in the future approve an application for the courthouse location due to the safety risks associated with that location. Under the ordinance, the decision of the chief can be appealed to the Town Manager. Acting Town Manager Tommy Cureton, after hearing the appeal of the BLM Vigil for action consortium, denied the appeal to return to the courthouse location. The ordinance allows for further appeal to the Town Council for a final decision.

## BACKGROUND

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Vigil began.

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Ordinance 2022-10 was adopted which laid out the new process for special event applications.

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023: The new application received for property is referred to as 10 Courthouse Square.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Approval of Special Event at Eva Walker Park.

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Public Safety Plan Created for Vigil at Eva Walker Park.

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Date of appeal to the Town Manager

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023: Decision on appeal from the Acting Town Manager, Tommy Cureton.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

At the morning session, conduct the required appeal as outlined in the Town Ordinance.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance 2022-10
2. Log of Incidents BLM Vigil for Action
3. Application - Public Service Tributes

4. BLM Vigil approval letter May 11\_20230512142207
5. BLM Vigil for Action Appeal Letter to the Town Manager May 17 2023
6. Public Safety Plan BLM Vigil\_051323-062423
7. Appeal Response- BLM Vigil for Action