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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST CITY OF CHARLESTON FOR ALLEGED HERITAGE ACT VIOLATIONS

The American Heritage Association (AHA) asserts that the City of Charleston has unequivocally violated the *Heritage Act*, the South Carolina state law which protects historical monuments and named structures. To date, the city has avoided prosecution for any violations of the act. As a result, the AHA felt obligated to file a lawsuit today against the city for the removal of the Robert E. Lee memorial, which was located on King Street, as well as changing the name of Memminger Auditorium. Memminger changed its name to Festival Hall in 2020 and the Lee memorial was removed by the city in 2021.

AHA attorney Lauren Martel said, ***“The Heritage Act was created specifically for the protection of monuments such as the Lee Memorial. Why is state law not being enforced?”***

The AHA cites recommendations from an August 2021 Special Commission report accepted by Mayor Tecklenburg as evidence of the city’s intent to consider additional monument removals in the future.

AHA President Brett Barry stated, **“Our monuments are under assault by Mayor Tecklenburg and other proponents of Cancel Culture.”** In 2021, Charleston area Congresswoman Nancy Mace voted to remove statues of South Carolinians that have rested on Capitol Hill for decades. Barry said, “Many South Carolinians are not aware that our monuments are under attack from trusted elected officials, and we want the citizens of Charleston and South Carolina to know exactly what is going on.”

The American Heritage Association is a non-profit based in Charleston, SC which is dedicated to the preservation of America’s national memory and the principles upon which it was founded.

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