

Council for Maryland Archeology, Inc.



Roy F. Young, II
President, Chief Executive Officer
The Montpelier Foundation
11350 Constitution Highway
Montpelier Station, VA

April 19, 2022

Dear Mr. Young,

The Board and membership of the Council for Maryland Archeology (CfMA) have watched in dismay for weeks as the Montpelier Foundation (TMF) has taken misstep after misstep in its handling of an ongoing public crisis of its own making. The remarkable bad faith shown by TMF in its dealing with the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC) is unjust to the descendants and embarrassing for James Madison's Montpelier.

Your recent termination and suspension of staff members was particularly startling. Those staff members in question, including Elizabeth Chew and Matt Reeves, are at the leading edge of achievement in their respective fields and have made powerful contributions to the development of archaeological practice during their time at Montpelier. Their removals, in retaliation for good faith efforts to deal with the MDC, are unconscionable.

CfMA condemns TMF's actions in the strongest possible terms. As professionals observing the events unfolding at Montpelier, we are inevitably led to question the good judgement of TMF's current leadership. We believe that the National Trust for Historic Preservation should do all that it can to remove TMF from its role in managing this important historic site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie T. Sperling".

Stephanie T. Sperling, M.A.A.
President, Council for Maryland Archeology

Cc: Paul Edmondson, President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Cc: Greg Werkheiser, Legal Counsel, Montpelier Descendants Committee