

1 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS**

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3 **RESOLUTION NO. R-17-07 Revised Amended**

4 **Introduced by Alderman Israel**  
5 **Alderman Shropshire**

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY			
First Reader:	Public Hearing:	Fiscal Impact Note:	120 Day Rule:
3/12/07	4/23/07	n/a	n/a
Referred to:	Meeting Date:	Action Taken:	
Rules & City Gov't	5/8/07	Favorable w/amendments	
		Revised version accepted 4/9/07	

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9 **A RESOLUTION concerning**

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11 **Expressing the City Council's Profound Regret for Role of the Municipal**  
12 **Government in Maintaining and Supporting the Practice of Slavery**

13  
14 **FOR** the purpose of expressing the City Council's profound regret for the role of the  
15 municipal government in maintaining and supporting the practice of slavery.

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the practice of slavery in colonial times in Annapolis has been well  
18 documented and is recognized in the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial at City  
19 Dock, and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the practice of slavery in the American colonies of Great Britain was based on  
22 a racial caste system in which only persons of African descent could be slaves  
23 and that condition of servitude was hereditary, and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence proclaims that "All men are created equal,  
26 and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights," and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence was signed on behalf of Marylanders by  
29 Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca and Thomas Stone,  
30 and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, each of the Maryland signers had a home in Annapolis and is honored with a  
33 portrait in the room where the City Council meets, and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, each of the Maryland signers owned slaves, and  
36

1 **WHEREAS**, the lofty principle of equality and the continuing practice of slavery could only  
2 be reconciled by treating those enslaved as not part of common humanity, and  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, before and after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the  
5 municipal government of Annapolis enacted ordinances to maintain and  
6 support the practice of slavery until its abolition on November 1, 1864, under  
7 the Maryland Constitution of 1864, and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in his second inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln spoke of the Civil  
10 War as the woe due to those, both North and South, by whom the offense of  
11 slavery came, and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the death of six hundred thousand soldiers and sailors in the Civil War, some  
14 of whom are buried in the Annapolis National Cemetery, was an atonement in  
15 blood for the offense of slavery, and  
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17 **WHEREAS**, even after the abolition of slavery, the racial caste system of slavery left a  
18 legacy in which African-Americans were viewed and treated by the dominant  
19 white culture as an inferior race, and  
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21 **WHEREAS**, within living memory, this view and treatment were reflected in racial  
22 segregation which was sanctioned by law and custom in Annapolis, and  
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24 **WHEREAS**, the legacy of slavery continues to burden the life of our country and our  
25 community.  
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY** that the practice of  
28 slavery contradicted the fundamental principle of the equality of every human being as  
29 proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence.  
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31 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City  
32 Council acknowledges the role of the municipal government in maintaining and supporting  
33 the practice of slavery and expresses its profound regret for this conduct.  
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35 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City  
36 Council recognizes that the legacy of slavery continues to burden the life of our country and  
37 community.  
38

39 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City  
40 Council is committed to overcoming this legacy and achieving reconciliation of the races.  
41

42 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City  
43 Council recommends that all residents of good will annually engage in a time of reflection

1 during the last week of October to better understand the history of slavery, the story of free  
2 African-Americans, the sacrifice of the Civil War, the legacy of a slave system based on a  
3 racial caste system and specific actions which can be taken, either individually or  
4 collectively, to overcome this legacy.

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6 **ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007.

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9 **ATTEST:**

**THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL**

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13 Regina C. Watkins-Eldridge, CMC  
14 City Clerk

BY: ELLEN O. MOYER, MAYOR

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