

ANNE By the Grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland and the Dominions therunto belonging Queen Defender of the Faith &c To all and singular our Faithfull Subjects within our Province of Maryland Greeting Whereas there is a very pleasant healthfull and Commodious place for Trade by Act of the Generall Assembly of the said Province laid out for a Towne and port and called Annapolis in honour of us Which said Towne and port hath in few years especially since the Accession of our Trusty and well beloved JOHN SEYMOUR Esq our Cap^t Generall and Governour in Charge of this our Province to the Government thereof very Considerably increased in the number of its Inhabitants as well as buildings both publick and private so that it excelleth all other Townes and ports in our said Province and for that our present Seat of Government within our Province aforesaid is fixed at the said port and Towne. Whereby the Towne hath become the Chief Mart of the whole Country We being willing to Encourage all our good and Faithfull Subjects as well at present residing and Inhabiting or which hereafter shall or may Inhabitt or reside within the said port of Annapolis of our Royal Grace goodwill and more motion with the Advice of our Council in the said Province have thought fitt and do by these our Letters Patents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and port of Annapolis together with the Precincts and precincts thereof including the Lands heretofore laid out for the said Towne and port of Annapolis publick pasture and Towne Common together with the River and Creeks adjacent into a City by the name of the City of Annapolis and do grant to the Inhabitants of the said City that the said City shall be an Incorporated City Consisting of a Mayor one person Learned in the Law skilled and bearing the office of Recorder of the said City and Six Aldermen and Ten other persons to be Common Councilmen of the said City which said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councilmen shall be a body incorporate and one Community for ever in Right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Council of the said City of Annapolis that the said City shall be a Corporation and shall have Succession for ever and to that end to have a Common Seal and that Amos Garrett Esquire of the said City shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the Ensuing Year and Wornell Hunt Esq Recorder thereof and William Bladen John Freeman Benjamin Franklin Evan Jones Thomas Bradley and Josiah Willson Esqrs Inhabitants of the said City shall be Aldermen thereof so long as they shall well behave themselves therein having first taken and subscribed the several Oaths for Security of the Government as by Law established and also the Oaths appointed by us or our present Governour to be taken by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis which shall be Administered to them by our Governour in Chief or Keeper of the Great Seal of this our Province for the time being or by such other person or persons as we our heirs and Successors Governour as aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time Authorise and appoint to Administer the same and We Grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall elect Chief Towne other of the most Sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being freemen thereof to be of the Common Council of the said City for so long time as they shall well behave themselves and to perpetuate the Succession of the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Council in all time to come we do grant that for the future they shall Assemble in some convenient place in the said City upon the first day of Michael the Arke Angell in every Year and shall elect and Choose by the Major Vote of such of them as shall be then present one other of the Aldermen of the said City for the time being to be Mayor of the said City for the Ensuing Year and upon decease or removal of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any decease or deceases Removal or Removals of the said Recorder or Aldermen or any of them or within one month after such Respective decease or deceases Removal or Removals the Residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor shall be living or the Major part of them shall at a set time by them to be appointed within the said City and precincts elect and nominate such other person or persons to be Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen of the said City in the place and places of such person or persons so deceased or removed Respectively as the Law shall require so as the said Mayor to be elected and nominated to at the time of such Election and nomination actually one of the Aldermen of the said City and so as the said Recorder so to be elected and nominated to be a person Learned in the Law and so as the said Alderman or Aldermen so to be elected and nominated be actually at the time of such Election and nomination of the Common Council of the said City the said Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen so to be elected and nominated first taking the several and Respective Oaths before mentioned to be appointed as aforesaid and shall likewise then fill up by the Election of the free voters of the said City out of and from among the Inhabitants and Freeholders of the said City the full number of Ten persons to be Common Councilmen and that the said persons hereby appointed and named or hereafter to be elected and nominated or any three of them whereof the said Mayor or Recorder for the time being shall be one shall have within the precincts of the said City full power and Authority to make Constables and other necessary officers and to rule order and Govern the Inhabitants thereof as Justices of the peace are or shall be Authorized to do and shall have power to Execute all the Laws Ordinances and Statutes that shall be made as fully and amply as if they were Authorized thereto by Express Commission named therein willing and Commanding that no other Justices of peace or Quorum within our said County or Province do at any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to execute the office of Justice of Peace within the said City or in the precincts thereof notwithstanding any Commission at large Authorizing them therunto saving the Authority and Jurisdiction of her Majesty's Justices and Gaole Delivers and during the time of their holding their several respective Offices in the said City and further we do Grant unto the said Mayor Recorder and Common Council of the said City for the time being full power and Authority after the space of six months to Elect a Sheriff for the said City but that until then the Sheriff of Anne Arundell County for the time being shall be Sheriff of the said City and to make order and appoint such by Laws and Ordinances among themselves for the Regulation and Good Government of Trade and other matters Exigences and things within the said City and precincts as to them or the Major part of them shall seem meet to be consonant to reason and not contrary but as near as convenient may be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes now in force which said by Laws shall be observed kept and performed by all manner of persons Trading and Riding within the said City under such reasonable pains penalties and Forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councilmen or the Major part of them then appointed from time to time not Exceeding forty shillings Sterling the said pains penalties and Forfeitures to be raised by distress and sale of the Goods of such person so offending and to be employed for the publick Benefit of the said City as their discretion and further we do Grant and give full power License privilege and Authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councilmen of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever and also all Freeholders of the said City that is to say all persons owning a whole Lot of Land with a house built thereon according to Law and all persons actually residing and Inhabiting in the said City having a taxable Estate of the Value of twenty pounds Sterling at the least and likewise all persons that hereafter shall live five Years to any Trade within this City and shall after the expiration of their time be actually house keeper and Inhabitants in the same to send two Citizens and Delegates to every of our Assembly or Assemblies hereafter to be had or at any time hereafter hereafter to be called to be held for this our said Province of Maryland to be elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants actually being and residing within the said City having a taxable Estate of the value of twenty pounds Sterling therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councilmen Freeholders and Freemen as aforesaid the Major part of them being then present by virtue of our writs or writs of action to be sent to them for that purpose which said writs writs we do hereby Grant shall be found out and sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and as often as occasion shall require Provided that all such Electors or Voters as aforesaid do take an oath to be true to the Interest of the said City before they be admitted to such Vote AND PROVIDED also and at all times after the end of the next General Assembly to be held for this Province no Freeman as aforesaid not being a Freeholder as aforesaid shall have the liberty of such Vote as aforesaid until three months after such his freedom obtained and when hereafter there shall happen any General Assembly to be held according as Writs shall be sent to the several and Respective Counties for the Electing Deputies or Delegates for that severall and Respective Counties in this our Province of Maryland We further Grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them so as aforesaid Elected and sent shall have full and free votes and voices in all and every of our General Assemblies touching or concerning all matters or things there to be discoursed and handled as other the Deputies or Delegates of the severall and Respective Counties formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have and further we Grant and give License to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councilmen of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever to have and to hold two markets weekly within this said City on every Wednesday and Saturday in the week in some convenient place to be by them appointed within the precincts Liberties of the said City and also two fairs yearly to be kept on Monday otherwise called St Phillip and Jacobs day and on the first of St Michael the Arke Angell or on the next day subsequent each or either of them in case they shall happen to fall on the Lords Day for the sale and vending all manner of Goods Cattle Wares and Merchandises whatsoever on which said Fair Days Days of fairs and after all persons coming to the said fairs together with their Cattle Goods Wares and Merchandises and whatsoever there shall be exempt and privileged from any Arrest Attachment or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to set such reasonable Toll upon such Goods Cattle Merchandises and other Commodities as shall be sold thereon Respectively as shall be thought fitt not exceeding Six pence on every Beast sold and the twentieth part of the Value of any Commodity and shall and may hold a Court of Py powder during the said Fair for the Determination of all controversies and Quarrels which may happen therein according to the usual Course in England in the like cases and We Grant unto them all profits and perquisites due incident and belonging to said market Fair and Courts of py powder AND FURTHER We do Grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold a Court of Hustings within the City where they are hereby empowered to make proper officers and settle reasonable Fees not Exceeding what are now Allowed in the County Court and shall have Jurisdiction and hold plea of Assumpsit and Contract for any Lands or Tenements within the said City as also of all Writs of Power for the same lands Tenements and of all other actions personal and mixed and as a Court of Record give judgement and award execution thereon according to the Laws and Statutes of England and this Province Provided the Demand in the said Action personal and mixed Exceedeth the Sum of Six pound Ten shillings Sterling or Seventeen hundred pounds of Tobacco AND PROVIDED Nevertheless that any party or parties plaintiffs or Defendants shall be at their liberty on Good Grounds to bring Writs of habeas Corpus and Certiorari to remove any persons from the said Hustings to the provincial Court of this Province and also to appeal from the judgement of the Mayor or to bring Writs of Error at their choice to the provincial Court under such Limitation and Regulation as is already by the Act of Assembly of this Province assigned for prosecuting appeals and Writs of Error from the County Court to the provincial Court IN WITNESS WHEREOF We have caused these our Letters to be made patent under the Great Seal of our said Province WILLIAM PAUL Trusty and well beloved JOHN SEYMOUR Esq Captain General and Governour in Chief of the said Province this Twentieth day of November in the Seventh year of our Reigne Annoque Domini 1708

Anne by the Grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland and the Dominions therunto belonging Queen Defender of the Faith &c To all and singular our Faithfull Subjects within our Province of Maryland Greeting Whereas there was a very pleasant healthfull and Commodious place for Trade by Act of the Generall Assembly of the said Province laid out for a Towne and port and called Annapolis in honour of us Which said Towne and port hath in few years especially since the Accession of our Trusty and well beloved JOHN SEYMOUR Esq our Cap^t Generall and Governour in Charge of this our Province to the Government thereof very Considerably increased in the number of its Inhabitants as well as buildings both publick and private so that it excelleth all other Townes and ports in our said Province and for that our present seat of Government within our Province aforesaid is fixed at the said port and Towne. Whereby the Towne hath become the Chief Mart of the whole Country We being willing to Encourage all our good and Faithfull Subjects as well as present residing and Inhabiting or which hereafter shall or may Inhabitt or reside within the said port of Annapolis of our Royal Grate goodwill and mere motion with the Advice of our Council in the said Province have thought fitt and do by these our Letters Patents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and port of Annapolis together with the Precincts and precincts thereof including the Lands heretofore laid out for the said Towne and port of Annapolis publick pasture and Towne Common together with the River and Creeks adjacent into a City by the name of the City of Annapolis and do grant to the Inhabitants of the said City that the said City shall be an Incorporated City Consisting of a Mayor one person Learned in the Law skilled and bearing the office of Recorder of the said City and Six Aldermen and Ten other persons to be Common Councillmen of the said City which said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen shall be a body incorporate and one Community for ever in Right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councill of the said City of Annapolis shall be able and Capable to sue and sued at Law and to act and execute do and performe as a body incorporate which shall have Succession for ever and to that end to have a Common Seal and that Amos Garrett Esquire of the said City shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the Ensuing Year and Wornell Hunt Esq Recorder thereof and William Bladen John Francklin Benjamin Franklin Evan Jones Thomas Bradley and Josiah Willson Esqrs Inhabitants of the said City shall be Aldermen thereof so long as they shall well behave themselves therein having first taken and subscribed the oaths of fealty and fidelity to our Government as by Law established and also the oaths appointed to be taken by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis which shall be Administered to them by our Governour in Chief or Keeper of the Great Seal of this our Province for the time being or by such other person or persons as we our heirs and Successors Governour as aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time Authorise and appoint to Administer the Same and We Grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall elect one or more of the most Sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being freemen thereof to be of the Common Council of the said City for so long time as they shall well behave themselves and to perpetuate the Succession of the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Council in all time to come we do grant that for the future they shall Assemble in some convenient place in the said City upon the first day of Michael the Arche Angell in every Year and shall elect and Choose by the Major Vote of such of them as shall be then present one other of the Aldermen of the said City for the time being to be Mayor of the said City for the Ensuing Year and upon decease or removal of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any decease or deceases Removal or Removals of the said Recorder or Aldermen or any of them or within one month after such Respective decease or deceases Removal or Removals the Residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor or he shall be living or the Major part of them shall at a set time by them to be appointed within the said City and Province to elect and nominate such other person or persons to be Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen of the said City in the place and places of such person or persons so deceased or removed Respectively as the Law shall require so as the said Mayor to be elected and nominated to at the time of such Election and nomination actually one of the Aldermen of the said City and so as the said Recorder so to be elected and nominated be a person Learned in the Law and so as the said Alderman or Aldermen so to be elected and nominated be actually at the time of such Election and nomination of the Common Council of the said City the said Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen so to be elected and nominated first taking the severall and Respective Oaths before mentioned to be appointed as aforesaid and shall likewise then fill up by the Election of the free voters of the said City out of and from among the Inhabitants and Freeholders of the said City the full number of Ten persons to be Common Councillmen and that the said persons hereby appointed and named or hereafter to be elected and nominated or any three of them whereof the said Mayor or Recorder for the time being shall be one shall have within the precincts of the said City full power and Authority to make Constables and other necessary officers and to rule order and Govern the Inhabitants thereof as Justices of the peace are or shall be Authorized to do and shall have power to execute all the Laws Ordinances and Statutes therein made as fully and amply as if they were Authorized thereto by Express Commission named therein willing and Commanding that no other Justices of peace or Quorum within our said County or Province do at any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to execute the office of Justice of Peace within the said City or in the precincts thereof notwithstanding any Commission at large Authorizing them therunto saving the Authority and Jurisdiction of her Majesty's Justices and Gaole Delivers and during the time of their holding their several respective Offices in the said City and further we do Grant unto the said Mayor Recorder and Common Council of the said City for the time being full power and Authority after the space of six months to Elect a Sheriff for the said City but that until then the Sheriff of Anne Arundell County for the time being shall be Sheriff of the said City and to make order and appoint such by Law and Ordinance among themselves for the Regulation and Good Government of Trade and other matters Exigences and things within the said City and precincts as to them or the Major part of them shall seem meet to be consonant to reason and not contrary but as near as convenient to be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes now in force which said by Law shall be observed kept and performed by all manner of persons Trading and Riding within the said City under such reasonable pains penalties and Forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen or the Major part of them from time to time not Exceeding forty Shillings Sterling the said pains penalties and Forfeitures to be raised by distress and Sale of the Goods of such person so offending and to be employed for the publick Benefit of the said City as their discretion and Justice shall require and we do Grant and give full power License privilege and Authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever and also all Freeholders of the said City that is to say all persons owning a whole Lot of Land with a house built thereon according to Law and all persons actually residing and Inhabiting in the said City having a taxable Estate of the value of twenty pounds Sterling at the least and likewise all persons that hereafter shall serve five years to any Trade within this City and shall after the expiration of their time be actually house keeper and Inhabitants in the same to send two Citizens and Delegates to every of our Assemblies or Assemblies hereafter to be had or at any time hereafter hereafter to be called to be held for this our said Province of Maryland to be elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants actually being and residing within the said City having a taxable Estate of the value of twenty pounds Sterling therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen Freeholders and Freemen as aforesaid the Major part of them being then present by virtue of our writs or writs of action to be sent to them for that purpose which said writs or writs we do hereby Grant shall be found out and sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and so often as occasion shall require Provided that all such Electors or Voters as aforesaid do take an oath to be true to the Supremacy of the said City before they be admitted to such Vote AND PROVIDED also and at all times after the end of the next Generall Assembly to be held for this Province no Freeman as aforesaid not being a Freeholder as aforesaid shall have the liberty of such Vote as aforesaid until three months after such his freedom obtained and when hereafter there shall happen any Generall Assembly to be held according as Writs shall be sent to the severall and Respective Counties for the Electing Deputies or Delegates for their severall and Respective Counties in this our Province of Maryland We further Grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them so as aforesaid Elected and sent shall have full and free votes and voices in all and every of our Generall Assemblies touching or concerning all matters or things there to be discoursed and handled as other the Deputies or Delegates of the severall and Respective Counties formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have and further we Grant and give License to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever to have and to hold two markets weekly within this said City on every Wednesday and Saturday in the week in some convenient place to be by them appointed within the precincts Liberties of the said City and also two fairs yearly to be kept on Monday otherwise called St Phillip and Jacobs day and on the first of St Michael the Arche Angell or on the next day successively or either of them in case they shall happen to fall on the Lords Day for the sale and vending all manner of Goods Cattle Hares and Merchandises whatsoever on which said Fair Days Days & fairs and after all persons coming to the said fairs together with their Cattle Goods Hares and Merchandises and whatsoever there shall be Exempt and privileged from any Arrest attachments or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to set such reasonable Toll upon such Goods Cattle Merchandises and other Commodities as shall be sold therein Respectively as shall be thought fitt not exceeding Six pence on every Beast sold and the twentieth part of the value of any Commodity and shall and may hold a Court of Py power during the said Fair for the Determination of all controversies and Quarrels which may happen therein according to the usual Course in England in the like cases and We Grant unto them all profits and perquisites due incident and belonging to said market Fair and Court of Py power AND FURTHER We do Grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold a Court of Hustings within the City where they are hereby empowered to make proper officers and settle reasonable Fees not Exceeding what are now Allowed in the County Court and shall have Jurisdiction and hold plea of Assumpsit and Contract for any Lands or Tenements within the said City as also of all Writs of Power for the same lands Tenements and of all other actions personal and mixt and as a Court of Record give Judgment and award Execution thereon according to the Laws and Statutes of England and this Province Provided the Demand in the said action personal and mixt Exceed not the Sum of Six pound Ten Shillings Sterling or Seventeen hundred pounds of Tobacco AND provided Nevertheless that any party or parties plaintiffs or Defendants shall be at their liberty on Good Grounds to bring Writs of habeas corpus and Certiorari to remove any plaints from the said Hustings to the provincial Court of this Province and also to appeal from the Judgment of the Mayor or to bring Writs of Error at their choice to the provincial Court under such Limitation and Regulation as is already by the Act of Assembly of this Province assigned for prosecuting appeals and Writs of Error from the County Court to the provincial Court IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made patent under the Great Seal of our said Province the Twentieth day of November in the seventh year of our Reigne Annoque Domini 1708