

Second Charter of Annapolis — Vellum/Parchment version  
(Transcript by Jean Russo, Maryland State Archives)

Anne by the grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland and the Dominions thereunto 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 Comodius 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 Porte hath in few years (especially since the accession of our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esqr our Cap<sup>n</sup> Generall and Governour in Chiefe 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 prov[ince] and for that our present Seate of Government within our province aforesaid is fixed at the said porte and Towne. Whereby the Towne has become the Cheif [*sic*] 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 good will and mere motion with the advice of our Councill in the said Province have thought fitt and do by these our Letters Pattents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and Port of Annapolis together with the Circuits and Precincts thereof Including the Lands heretofore laid out for the said Towne and port of Annapolis Publick pasture and Towne Comon 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 Incorporate[d] City Consisting of a mayor one person Learned in the Law stiled and bearing the office of Recorder of the said City and six Aldermen and Tenn other persons to be Common Councillmen of the said City which said Mayor Recorder Alderman and Comon Councillmen shall be a body Incorporated and one Comunity for ever in Right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill of the said City of Annapolis shall be able and Capable to sue and [be] 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 Comon Seale and that Amos Garrett Esquire one of the Inhabitants of the said City

shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the ensueing year and Wornell Hunt Esq Recorder thereof, and William Bladen John Freeman Benjamin For[d]ham 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 [Test and] severall oaths for security of the Government as by Law Established and also the oath appointed by us or our present Governour to be taken by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis which shall be administred to them by our Governour in Cheif [*sic*] or Keeper of the Great Seale of this our province for the time being or by such other person or persons as Wee our heirs and successors [or our] Governour as aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time authorise and appoint to administer the same and Wee grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall elect and Chose Tenn other of the most sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being freemen thereof to be of the Comon Councill 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 Councill 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 feast day of S<sup>t</sup> 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 City for the Ensueing Year and upon decease or removall of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any decease or deceases Removall or Removalls of the said Recorder or Aldermen or any of them or within one month after such Respective decease or deceases Removall or Removalls the Residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor or if he shall be living or the major part of them shall at a sett 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 Case shall require so as the said Mayor so to be Elected and nominated be 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 Comon Councill of the said City the said Mayor Recorder, Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and nominated first takeing 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 Tenn persons to be Comon 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 governe 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 in that behalf made as fully and amply as if they were authorized thereto by Express Commission named therein willing and Comanding that no other Justices of peace or Quorum within our said County or Province doe 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 thereunto saving the authority and Jurisdiction of her Majesties Justices [of Oyer and Terminer] and Gaole deliver [now or hereafter to be assigned] During the time of their holding their Severall respective Courts in the said City and ffurther we will and grant unto the said Mayor Recorder and Comon Councill of the said City for the time being full power and authority after the space of Six years to Elect a sherriff for the said City (but that untill then the sheriff of Anne Arundell County for the time being shall be sherriff for 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 conveniently 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 Residing within the said City under such reasonable pains penaltys and Forfeitures to be raised as shall be Imposed by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councillmen or the major part of them then assembled from time to time not Exceeding Forty shillings sterling the said paines penaltys and Forfeitures to be

raised by distress and sale of the goods of such person so offending and to be employed for the publick benefitt of the said City at their discretion and Further we do grant and give full power Lycense priviledge and authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon 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 Lott of Land with a house built thereon according to Law and all persons actually residing and Inhabitting in the said City having a visable 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 Assembly or Assemblies hereafter to be held or at any time hereafter hereafter [*sic*] 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 Freehold or visible Estate of the value of twenty pounds sterling therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councillmen Freeholders and Freemen as aforesaid [or] the major part of them being then present by virtue of our Writt or writs of action to be sent to them for that purpose which said Writt or Writts we do hereby grant shall be Issued out and sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and so often as occasion shall require Provided that all such Elector 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 Generall Assembly to be held according as Writts shall be sent to the Severall and Respective Counties for the Electing Deputys 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 General Assemblies touching or concerning all matters or things there to be discoursed and handled as other the Deputys or Delegates of the severall and Respective Countys formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have and further

we grant and give license to the Mayor Recorder Alderman and Comon 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 feast of S<sup>t</sup> Michaell the Arke Angell or on the next day suc[ceeding] 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 whatever on which said Fair Day [& first two] Days before and after all persons coming to the said Fairs together with their Cattle Goods Wares and Merchandises and returning thence shall be Exempt and priviledged 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 Comodities as be sold therein Respectively as shall be thought fitt not exceeding sixpence on every Beast sold and the twentieth part of the Value of any Comodity and shall and may hold a Court of Pypowdry 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 Profitts and perquisites due incident and belonging to said Market Fair and Courte of pypowdry 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 said City where they are hereby empowered to make proper officers and settle Reasonable Fees not Exceeding what are now allowed in the County Courte and shall have Jurisdiction and hold Plea of Trespass and Ejectment for any Lands or Tenements within the said City as also of all Writts of Dower for the same lands [and] Tenements and of all other actions personall and mixt and as a Court of Record give Judgement and award Execution thereon according to the Laws and Statues of England and this Province Provided the Demand in the said action personall and mixt exceed not the Sum of Six pound Tenn 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 Writts of habeas Corpus and Certiorari to remove any plaints from the said Hustings to the

provincial Courte of this Province and also to appeal from the Judgement of the Mayor or to bring Writts of Error at their Choice to the provinciall Courte under such Limitation and Regulation as is already by the Act of Assembly of this Province assigned for prosecuting appeals and Writts of Error from the County Courte to the provinciall In Testimony whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent under the Great Seale of our said province Wittness our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esq Captain General and Governour in Cheif [*sic*] of the said Province this Twenty Second day of November in the Seventh year of our Reigne Annoque Domini 1708