

The Charter of the City of Annapolis

Anne by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and
 Ireland, and the Dominions thereto belonging Queen, Defender of the
 Faith &c. To all and singular our faithful Subjects within our Province
 of Maryland Greeting, Whereas there is a very pleasant, healthfull
 and Commodious Place for Trade, by Act of the General Assembly
 of this our Province, laid out for a Town and port, and called Anna-
 polis in honour of us. Which said Town and Port hath in few
 years (especially since the Accession of our Trusty and well Belov'd
 John Seymour Esq; our Captain Generall (and Governour in chief
 of this our Province to the Governour thereof) very considerably in-
 creas'd in the number of its Inhabitants as well as Buildings both
 publick and private So that it Excelleth all other Towns and Ports
 in our said Province, AND for that our present Seat of Gov-
 ernment within our Province aforesaid is fixed at the said Port and
 Town. Whereby the same is become the chief Mart of the
 whole Country, We being willing to Encourage all our good and
 faithful Subjects as well at present residing and inhabiting
 or which hereafter shall or may inhabit or reside within the
 same Port of Annapolis, of our Royall Grace, good will and more
 motion with the advice of our Council in our said Province have thought
 fitt and do by these our Letters patents constitute and Erect the said
 Town and Port of Annapolis together with the Circles and Precincts ther-
 of including the same heretofore laid out for the said Town and Port of
 Annapolis, publick Pasture and Town Common together with the river and
 Creeks adjacent into a City by the name of the City of Annapolis, and do
 grant unto the Inhabitants of the said City that the same City shall be an
 Incorporated City consisting of a Mayor, One Person Learned in the Law
 styled and bearing the Office of Recorder of the said City and six Eld-
 ermen and ten other Persons to be Common Council Men of the said
 City, which said Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council Men
 shall be a Body incorporate and one Community for ever in Right &
 by name of Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and common Council of the
 said City of Annapolis shall be Able and Capable to sue and be sued at
 Law and to Elect, Execute, do and perform as a Body incorporate which
 shall have Succession for ever and to that End to have a Common Seal and
 that Amos Garrett Esq; one of the Inhabitants 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

59th Bladen, John Freeman, Benjamin Fordham, Evan Jones, Thomas Bond,
Log, Josiah Wilson Esqrs Inhabitants of the said City shall & Aldermen
thereof so long as they shall well behave themselves therein, having first
taken and subscribed the Oaths and several Oaths for Security of the Government
as by Law established and also the Oath appointed by us or our Present Go-
vernour in ~~the~~ ~~County~~ of the Great ~~County~~ of this our Province for
~~the Time being or by such other Person or Persons to be taken by~~
the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis aforesaid
which shall be administered to them by our Governour in Chief or
Governour of the Great ~~County~~ of this our Province for the Time being
or by such other Person or Persons as we, our Heirs and Successours
or our Governour aforesaid for the Time being shall from Time to Time
authorize and appoint to administer the same, and we do grant that the
said Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall E-
lect and chuse ten other of the most sufficient of the Inhabitants
and Freeholders 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 and Aldermen and Common Council from Time to Time, we do
grant that for the future they shall Assemble in some convenient
Place in the said City upon the feast Day of Saint Michael in Every-
year and shall Elect and Chuse for the ~~ensuing~~ year by the Major
Vote of such of them as shall be then present one Other of the Al-
dermen 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 if he shall be living or the major part of
them shall at a ~~well~~ time by them to be appointed within the said
City and precincts Elect and nominate some other person or persons
to be Mayor, Recorder, Alderman or Aldermen of the said City in
the space and places of such person or persons so deceased or remo-
ved respectively as the Case shall require & as the said Mayor so to be
Elected and nominated at all the times of such Election and nomination
actually ^{and} of the Aldermen of the said City and so as the said Recorder so
to be Elected and nominated as aforesaid in the Laws and so as
the said Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and nominated as actually

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at the time of such Election and Nomination of the common Council of the said City, the said Mayor, Recorder, Alderman or Aldermen to be Elected and nominated first taking the Oaths and respective Oaths before mentioned to be appointed as aforesaid and shall likewise then fill up by the like Election out of and from and among the Juratants and Freeholders of the said City the full number of ten, Y^e Men to be common Council Men and that the said Y^e Men hereby appointed and named or hereafter to be Elected and nominated Mayor Recorder or Alderman to be Justices of the Peace w^{ch} in the City precincts and Liberties thereof having first taken the Oaths usually appointed to be taken by the Justices of the Peace and the said Mayor, Recorder and Alderman hereby named and appointed 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 w^{ch} in the Precincts of the said City full power and Authority to make Constables and other necessary Officers, and to rule, Order and govern the Juratants thereof as Justices of the Peace are 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 writing and commanding that no other Justices of the Peace or Jurors w^{ch} in our said Counties or Precincts do at any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to Execute the Office of a Justice of Peace w^{ch} in the said City or the precincts thereof, notwithstanding any Commission at Large authorizing them thereto, and further we will and grant unto the said Mayor Recorder, Alderman & Common Council of the said City for the time being full power and Authority after the space of six years to Elect a Sheriff for the said City (but that until then the Sheriff of Cheshire and 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 regulating and good Government of Trade & other Matters, Emergencies and Things w^{ch} in the said City and precincts as to them or the major part of them shall seem most so as they be consonant to reason and not contrary but as near as conveniently may be agreeable to the Laws Statutes now in force, w^{ch} by-Laws shall be observed, kept and performed by all manner of persons trading and residing w^{ch} in the said City under such reasonable Penalties, Fines and Forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said Mayor Recorder

293. Aldermen and Common Council or the major part of them then
assembled from time to time not exceeding forty shillings sterling -
the said penalty 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 at their Discretion, and further
we do grant and give full power, Licence, privilege and Authority to
the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and the first Senior or first common
Council Men of the said City for the time being and their suc-
cessors for Ever to send two Citizens and Delegates to Every of our
Assemblies or Assemblies hereafter to be hold or at any time or times
hereafter to be called to be hold in this our Province of Maryland
to be choiced and chosen out of the Inhabitants actually being and re-
siding within the said City having a freehold or visible Estate of ten
or more pounds sterling therein by the said Mayor, Recorder Aldermen, and
first common Council men and the major part of them being then
present by virtue of our Writ or Writts of Election to be sent to
them for that purpose, which said Writ or Writts we do hereby grant
shall be issued out and sent to them when and so often as Occasion
shall require and when hereafter there shall happen any general As-
sembly to be hold according as writts shall be sent to the several
and respective Counties for Electing of Popity or Delegates for their se-
veral and respective Counties in this our Province of Maryland, we
further grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them so as afo-
rechoiced and sent shall have full and free Votes and voices in all &
Every of our General Assemblies touching or concerning all Matters or
Things their to be discussed & handled as other the Popity or De-
legator of the several and respective Counties formerly have had now
have or hereafter may have, And further we do grant and give Licence
to the Mayor, Recorder Aldermen and Common Council of the said
City for the time being and their Successors for Ever to have and to
hold two Markets Weekly within the said City on Every ~~the~~ Wednesday
and Saturday in the Week in some convenient place to be by them
appointed within the precincts and Liberty of the said City and also two
fairs yearly to be kept on May Day otherwise called St Philip and
Jacobs Day and on the feast of St Michael the Arch Angel (or on
the next Day according Each or Either of them in case they shall
happen to fall on the Lord Day for the Sale and vending of all
manner of Goods, Cattle, Wares and Merchandises whatsoever on which
said fair days and for two days before and after all persons coming to
the said fairs together with their Cattle, Goods, Wares and Merchandises &
returning

To his Ex^{ty} John Seymour &

The humble petition of the Corporation of the City of Annapolis &
and the greater parts of the Inhabitants of the Same humbly
sheweth

That whereas in her most gracious Maj^{ty} ^{lies} behalf^{ys} Ex^{ty}
for the benefit of her Dutifull Subjects, Inhabitants in this place was
pleased to grant them a Charter Incorporating theroby this late town of
Annapolis into a City (it having formerly had the Honour in Remem-
brance of Princes Anno now our good Queen to be erected into a town)
AND inasmuch as it is the Seat of Government the best situated and
most convenient place for Trade where in are greater number of Inhabit-
ants than in any other place in this her Maties Province who are Desirous
that that parts of her Maties grant to this City empowering the Mayor,
Recorder, Aldermen and five of the Common Councill men to Elect and
send two representatives to the grace assembly to serve as Burgesses for
this City may be enlarged May it there fore please yo^r Ex^{ty} so far to
enlarge the Charter that all persons being freeholders in this City (that
is to say owning a whole Lot of Land with a house built thereon according
to Law) and that all persons actually residing and Inhabiting in this City
having a visible Estate of the value of two only pounds ster, and also
that 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
keepers and Inhabitants in the Same (they first taking the Oath of free
Citizens) may have a free vote in the Electing such representatives or
Burgesses to serve hereafter in all grace assembly, as in the said Charter
is Expressed AND further that after the Decease or Removal of any
of the Common Councill men already, Elected and sworn by the Mayor
Recorder and Aldermen of the said City, all the freemen Inhabitants
as aforesaid may have a free vote in the Electing of another Common
Councill man or Common Councill men to serve in this or their place and
stead - and it is further most humbly prayed that no person or persons
after the next Generall Assembly (notwith standing being made freemen
of the City) shall have an Elective voyce in the chusing of Burgesses
or Representatives for this City, untill they have been made free three
months which is the humble Desire of your Petitioners the subscribers,
and as in Duty Bound Wee will ever pray &c.

John Baldwin
John Bide
The Town

John Balswin
 John Brice
 Tho: Douera
 Richard Young
 Amos Garrett Mayor
 Wm. Hunt Recorder
 Wm. Bladen
 John Hrooman
 Benj. Fordham
 Evan Jones
 Tho: Boardley
 Josiah Willson

Cha: Killbounno
 Math: Hoard
 John Hoalo
 Tho: Jones C: Counc
 Patrick Ogilvie
 Cador Edwards

James Wotton
 Christopher Smithers
 Joseph Humphrys
 John B
 Wm Gwyn
 Richard Burkardiko
 Richard Kolk
 Thomas Holmes
 John Novarre
 Wm Durdan

Aldermen

Wm. Haughton
 Charles Cowly
 Wm. Elliott
 Rich: Thompson
 Sam. Nowill
 Wm. Gaylard
 Jm Gresham Jun

November the 18. 1708
 The within Petitioner granted and Ordered that
 the Corporacion prepare a Charter as within
 Prayed to be signed by his Excy and on her Maties
 behalfs sealed with the great Seals of this Provin
 Signed per order

W Bladen

The Charter of the City of Annapolis

Ann^o by the grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland and the
 Dominions therunto blonging Queen Defendor of the faith &c. do all and
 singular our faith full Subjects within our Province of Maryland Greeting
 Whereas there is a very pleasant health full and Commodius place for Trade
 by act of the Grall assembly of this our Province laid out for a Towne and
 Porte and Called Annapolis in honour of us which said Towne and Porte
 hath in few years (especially since the Accesion of our Trusty and well
 beloved John Seymour Esq our Capⁿ Generall and Governour in
 Chief

Chiefs of this our Province to the Government thereof every Con-
 siderably 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 Seale of Governm^t
~~is~~ within our Province aforesaid is fixed at the said Ports and
 Towne Whereby the same is become the Chief Mart of the whole
 Countrey Wee being willing to encourage all our Good and faith-
 full Subjects as well at present Residing and Inhabiting or which
 hereafter shall or may Inhabit or Reside within the said Ports of
 Annapolis of our Royall Grace good will and moore motion with the
 advice of our Councill in our said Province have thought fitt and
 Doe by these our Letters Patents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and
 Ports of Annapolis together with the Circuits and Profincts thereof including
 the lands heretofore laid out for the said Towne and Ports of Annapolis
 Publick pasture and Towne Common together with the River and Crooks
 adjaient into a City by the name of the City of Annapolis and Doe grant
 to the Inhabitants of the said City that the same City shall be incor-
 porate 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 Tenn other persons to be Common Councill men of the said City
 which said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councill men
 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 be sued
 at Law and to all and execute doe and performe as a body incorporate
 which shall have succession for ever and to that end to have a Common
 Seale and that Amos Garrett Esq^r one of the Inhabitants of the said City
 shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the ensue-
 ing year and Wornoll Hunt Esq^r Recorder thereof and William
 Bladen, John Freeman, Benj^t Goddham, Evan Jones, Tho: Boardley
 and Josiah Willson Esq^s 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 aforesaid

which —

Which shall be Administered to them by our Governour in Chief
 Keeper of the greates seals of this our Province for the time being or by
 such other person or persons as wee our heirs and successors or our Gov^{er}
 aforesaid the time being shall from time to time Authorise and appoy^{nt}
 to administer the same and wee grant that the said Mayor Recorder
 and Aldermen or the Major parte of them shall Elect and Choose some
 others 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 soe
 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 wee doo grant that for the future they
 shall Assemble in some convenient place in the said City upon the feast
 Day of St. Michael the Archangell 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 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 if he shall be living or the Major
 parte of them shall at a sett time by them to be appointed within y^e
 said City and precincts Elect and Nominate some 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 soe Deceased or removed Respective
 ly as the Case shall require soe as the said Mayor to be Elect^{ed} and
 Nominat^{ed} be at the time of such Election and Nomination actually
 one of the Aldermen of the said City and soe as the said Recorder soe
 be Elect^{ed} and Nominat^{ed} be a person learned in the law and soe as the said
 Alderman or Aldermen soe to be Elect^{ed} and Nominat^{ed} 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 soe to be
 Elect^{ed} and Nominat^{ed} first taking the oath 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 freemen of the said City the full number

of

Of four persons to be Common Councillmen and that the said persons hereby appointed
 and named or hereafter to be elected and nominated mayor Recorder or Aldermen or
 Justices of the peace within the City precincts and Liberties thereof having first taken
 the oaths usually appointed to be taken by the Justices of the Peace the said Mayor
 Recorder and Aldermen hereby named and appointed or hereafter to be elected &
 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 in
 that behalf 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 doo at any time
 hereafter take upon them or any of them to Execute the office of a 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 His Majesties Justices of Oyer and Terminer and Goals deliver now or here-
 after to be assigned During the time of their holding their said respective
 Courts in the said City and further we do will and grant unto the said
 Mayor Recorder and Common Councill of the said City for the time
 being full power and Authority after the space of six years to Elect
 a Sheriff for the said City but that until then the Sheriff of Anno Arund.
 County for the time being shall be Sheriff of the said County and to make
 Ordinances 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 parte 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 &
 performed by all manner of persons Trading and Retailing within the
 said City under such reasonable pains penalties and Forfeitures to
 be raised by Distress and Sale of the goods as shall be imposed by the
 said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Councillmen or the
 major parte of them then assembled 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 offending and to
 be employed for the Publick Benefit of the said City at their Discretion
 and further we doo grant and Give full power License Privilege
 and Authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common

Councill

600
Councilemen 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 visible
Estate of the value of twenty pounds ster at the least and likewise
all persons that hereafter shall serve five years to any Trade or in
this City and shall after the expiration of their time be actually house
keepers and Inhabitants in the same to send two Citizens and Delegates
to every of our assemblies hereafter to be held or at any time
times 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 Freehold or visible
Estate of the value of twenty pounds ster therein by the said Mayor
Recorder Aldermen Common Councilemen Freeholders and Freemen
as aforesaid or the major parts of them being then present by virtue
of our Writ or writs of election to be sent to them for that purpose which
said Writ or writs 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 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 Generall assembly to be held
for this Province no Freeman as aforesaid not being a Freeholder as
aforesaid shall have the libertie of such vote as aforesaid untill
free 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 said and respective Counties for 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 discussed and handled
as other the Deputies or Delegates of the said and respective Counties
formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have AND further
we grant and give Licence to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and
Common Council of the said City for the time being and their successors

for

For Ever to have and to hold two marketts weekly within
 this said City on every woodnday 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
 Munday otherwise called St. Phillip and Jacobs Day and on the
 feast of St. Michael the Archangell or on the next Day succeeding
 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 Merchandizes whatsoever on which said fair Days &
 first two days before and after all persons coming to the said fairs
 together with their Cattle goods ^{wares} and Merchandizes and returning
 thence shall be exempt and Priviledged from any Arrest Attachm^{ts}
 or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen
 shall have power to sell such Reasonable Tolls upon such Goods Cattle
 Merchandizes and other Commodities as shall be sold therein Re-
 spectively as shall be thought fitt not exceeding six pence on every
 Beast sold and the twentieth parte of the value of any Commodity
 and shall and may hold a Courte of Hypowdry during the said fair.
 for the Determination of all Controversies and Quarrels which may
 happen therein according to the usuall Course in England in the like
 Cases and wee grant unto them all Profitts and perquisits Due In-
 cident and belonging to said Market fair and Courte of Hypowdry
 And further wee doe grant that the said Mayor Recorder
 and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold a Courte
 of Hustings within the said City where they are hereby Impowred
 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 Detinment 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 Courte of Record give Judgem^t and award Execution thereon
 according to the Law and Statutes of England and this Province

Provided

Provided the Demand in the said action personall and mixt
 exceed not the Sum of Six pound 30s Shillings ster or seven teen
 hundred pound of Tobacco AND PROVIDED howe the loss that
 any party or parties plaintiff or Defendants shall be at their Liberty
 on good grounds to bring writts of Habeas Corpus and Certiorario
 to remove any Plaints from the said Hustings to the Provinciale
 Courts of this Province and also to appeale from the Judgment
 of the mayors or bring writts of Error ~~from the County Courts~~ att
 their choice to the Provinciale Court under such Limitacon
 and Regulacon as is already by the act of Assembly of this Province
 assigned for prosecuting appeales and writts of Error from the
 County Courts to the Provinciale In Testimoniey whereof wee
 have caused these our letters to be made Patent GIVEN att
 annapolis under the greale Seale of our said Province WITH
 = ness our trusty and well beloved JOHN SEYMOUR
 Esq. Cap^l Grall and Governour in chief of our said Province
 this twenty second Day of November in the seventh year of our
 Reigne &c. Annoque Domini 1708