

~~ESTABLISHED THERE IN 1635, THE FIRST USE OF TOWN PLANNING CAME IN 1668, AND THE FIRST PRINTING PRESS IN THE SOUTHERN COLONIES CAME IN 1685.~~

~~(H) MOREOVER, EVENTS OF TREMENDOUS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OCCURRED AT ST. MARY'S CITY, INCLUDING THE FIRST STATE HOUSE OF MARYLAND IN 1634, THE FIRST MARYLAND INDUSTRIES, BRICK MAKING AND IRON WORKS, WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE 1630S, THE FIRST MILL OPERATED IN MARYLAND (1635), THE FIRST PUBLIC INN OPENED IN MARYLAND (1638), THE FIRST ANGLICAN CHURCH IN MARYLAND (1642), AND THE FIRST OFFICIAL CITY IN MARYLAND (1668).~~

(2) THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ST. MARY'S CITY TO THE HISTORY OF MARYLAND AND THE NATION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND FUNDING FOR ST. MARY'S CITY HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATE TO PRODUCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF, OR APPRECIATION FOR, ST. MARY'S CITY THAT IT IS DUE FROM THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE AS WELL AS OF THE NATION, AND FINDS AND DECLARES THAT A NEW COURSE OF ACTION IS NEEDED.

(3) THE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION NEEDS THE STATE TO PROVIDE BASIC OPERATIONAL FUNDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY ALONG WITH AN INCREASED EMPHASIS ON SOLICITING OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, RESEARCH, STUDY, AND CURATION, AS WELL AS ACCELERATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

(4) EVERY MARYLAND SCHOOL CHILD SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AS TO THE HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CITY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY TO THIS STATE BUT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION. AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO SECONDARY AND COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS AS WELL AS ADULTS PURSUING CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

(5) AN AFFILIATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND WILL ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO PUT TO FULLER AND MORE EFFECTIVE USE THE ASSETS THAT THE STATE HAS ACQUIRED, PRESERVED AND DEVELOPED AT HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS.

(6) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION AS A PUBLIC CORPORATION AN INDEPENDENT UNIT AND PROVISION OF BASIC OPERATING FUNDS BY THE STATE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND WILL FACILITATE THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NATIONALLY IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITE.

(7) HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY WILL BENEFIT FROM A CREATIVE AFFILIATION AND MORE FORMAL COLLABORATION WITH ITS GEOGRAPHIC NEIGHBOR, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND, ITSELF DESIGNATED IN 1840 AS A LIVING MONUMENT TO THE LEGACY OF MARYLAND'S FIRST COLONIAL CAPITAL.