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Office of the Mayor
Gavin Buckley, Mayor
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

March 11, 2024

To: Alderpersons, City of Annapolis

From: Mayor Gavin Buckley

Re: Commission to Plan Celebrations for the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America
Appointments

Pending your approval, I would like to appoint the following individuals to the Commission to Plan Celebrations for the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America

Ms. Julia Rose representing the residents of Annapolis
Ms. Joann Vaughn representing the residents of Annapolis
Aldерwoman Karma O'Neill representing The Annapolis Mayor's office
Ms. Kristen Pironis representing Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
Ms. Karen Brown representing Historic Annapolis, Inc.
Ms. Martina Dodd representing Banneker-Douglass Museum
Mr. Steve Adams representing Anne Arundel County
Ms. Katie McDermott representing Maryland State Senate
Ms. Kim Golder representing Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission
Ms. Carol Benson representing Chesapeake Crossroads (formerly known as Four Rivers)
Ms. Judy Buddensick representing the City of Annapolis business community.
Ms. Tricia Sanborn representing the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County
Ms. Jackie Colman representing Maryland Hall
Mr. Brent Everitt representing The National Parks Service.

Bios are attached

Thank You.

GB/hrr

Julia Rose

Ms. Julia Rose is a resident of Ward 4 in the City of Annapolis. Ms. Rose is the director of the Marietta House Museum and a board member at the Hammond Harwood House. Ms. Rose has held curatorial positions at the Columbia Historical Society in Washington, D.C.; the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, Tennessee; the Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and served as the director at Johns Hopkins University's Homewood Museum in Baltimore.

She has served on the faculties of the Master of Arts in Museum Studies Program at Southern University at New Orleans, and since 2012 as a member of the faculty in LSU's School of Library and Information Sciences, where she taught Introduction to Museum Management.

Ms. Rose's primary research interests focus on interpreting difficult histories and documenting historical enslaved plantation communities for museum interpretations. She has also published and lectured extensively. Her most recent book is *Interpreting Difficult History* (Rowan and Littlefield, 2016). She is the immediate past council chairman of the American Association for State and Local History.

Rose holds a doctorate in education from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Albany.

Joann Vaughn

Ms. Joann Vaughan is a nonprofit leader and resident in the Historic District. Ms. Vaughan has a 35-year career in nonprofit management. During her 15 years as executive director of Maryland Federation of Art, she created a nation-wide presence for the organization, expanding MFA's mission of creating connections in the community. Prior to coming to MFA in June 2008, she created and ran the Annapolis Book Festival, building it from an idea to a multi-faceted, nationally televised event. She has served as senior staff and on the board of directors for several national and international nonprofit organizations and has consulted with more than 100 nonprofits across the US in governance and board development. Ms. Vaughan holds a BA in American History from the University of Virginia and a Masters in management from the University of Maryland.

Alderwoman Karma O'Neill

Karma O'Neill is a business owner, event planner and community volunteer in Annapolis, Maryland. She founded her business, KO Events, in 2009 and has planned numerous events and gatherings, including weddings, corporate functions, and non-profit galas. In 2021 Karma was elected to the Annapolis City Council, representing Ward 2. Karma lives in Admiral Heights with her husband, Sean, two children, Carter and Jillian, and border collie.

Kristen Pironis

Ms. Pironis is the Executive Director of Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, the nonprofit, destination marketing and management organization. In her role, she is responsible for fostering a welcoming destination promoting tourism on behalf of visitors, partners, and the community. She serves on the Anne Arundel County

Local Workforce Development Board, on the advisory committee for the Nonprofit Center @ 41 Community Place, and as the chair of the Maryland State Library Board. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and a Master of Science degree in nonprofit and association management from the University of Maryland. In 2023, she received a certificate in Sustainable Tourism Destination Management through Cornell University.

Karen Theimer Brown

Ms. Brown is the President and CEO of Historic Annapolis. She brings over 20 years of experience in the preservation field. As President of HA, Karen serves as the primary spokesperson for the organization, setting policy, advocacy, and preservation planning initiatives. Karen has an undergraduate degree in English from James Madison University and a master's degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy with a specialization in historic preservation from the University of Delaware. She is a past Commissioner of the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission and is currently serving on the Annapolis Heritage Commission. Karen also served on the board of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions and the Annapolis City Dock Advisory Committee. She worked for the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for close to a decade and the City of Annapolis Preservation Division prior to joining the staff at Historic Annapolis. Previously, Karen served as the Vice President of the Preservation Division at Historic Annapolis. Karen lives in Annapolis with her husband and three boys.

Martina Dodd

Ms. Dodd, an art historian and curator, specializes in the preservation, study, and expansion of African American-centered collections. Prior to joining the Bannerker-Douglass Museum Dodd served as the Program Director of Curation and Object-Based Learning at the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library. In this role, she managed the AUC GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) Center for Collaborative Teaching and Learning, overseeing physical and digital exhibitions, fostering collaboration between AUC museum and library professionals, and implementing object-based teaching methods.

Throughout her career, Dodd has cultivated cross-institutional partnerships and utilized innovative object-based learning pedagogy to engage diverse audiences with cultural heritage collections. With expertise in African and African Diasporan arts, she skillfully connects art with archival materials to provide nuanced interpretations of the contemporary experiences, contributions, and culture of African Americans.

A Maryland native, Dodd holds a Master of Arts in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas from the University of East Anglia; a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and International Studies from Johns Hopkins University; and a certification in E-Learning Instructional Design and Development.

Steve Adams

A lifelong Annapolitan, Steven Adams developed a keen interest in and appreciation for the historical and cultural significance of his colonial hometown through a multitude of childhood experiences – from regularly visiting its museums and historic sites to sailing on the Severn. Adams pursued a broader interest in American

history and political communication in college, receiving a B.A. in Political Science from Union College and an M.S. in Journalism & Mass Communication from Iowa State University. While working at The Pew Research Center then at The Cyphers Agency, Adams enjoyed researching and writing about Annapolis's history and culture for many years as a freelance writer for Visit Annapolis, *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*, and *The Bay Weekly*. In his current role as Marketing and Outreach Manager at the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), Adams loves writing about and promoting the many programs and resources that the organization offers to help businesses in Anne Arundel County thrive. Adams is honored to serve as the county representative to the 250 Commission and looks forward to applying his enthusiasm and abilities to help make July 4, 2026 a truly momentous and memorable occasion.

Katie McDermott

Ms. McDermott is a resident of the historic district with a passion for American History. Ms. McDermott is a health law attorney and former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. Ms. McDermott is active in the community serving as president of her HOA and on many professional committees as well as adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland Cary School of Law.

Kim Golder

Ms. Golder is a retired Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer with over 28 years of experience in law Enforcement. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Hampton University and a Master's in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. Ms. Golder has lived in Ward 4 for over 19 years and is committed to serving the city and community. She serves on the City of Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission, serves as the secretary for the Annapolis Democratic Central Committee, is an active member of the Annapolis Chapter of the Links, Incorporated and is the president of the Arundel Bay Area Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Dr. Carol Benson

Dr. Carol Benson is Executive Director of the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area, formerly known as Four Rivers Heritage Area, a position she has held since 2008. She is a heritage professional whose past positions have included Classical art historian, museum curator, university lecturer, and non-profit administrator. She was an Executive Board member of Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County from 2013 to 2019, and served on the Advisory Council of the Star-Spangled National Historic Trail. Prior to coming to the heritage area, she was Deputy Director for Special Projects at Maryland Humanities, and Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow at the Walters Art Museum. She has a Ph.D. in Classical Greek Art History from Princeton University.

Judy Buddensick

Ms. Judy Buddensick is a long time Annapolis resident and business owner. Ms. Buddensick is the president of Francis Marketing Group and has been involved in both the US Naval Academy community and the downtown Annapolis business community for many years. She serves on many volunteer organizations including the

Annapolis Police Foundation, Downtown Annapolis Partnership, Eastport Civic Association and US Naval Academy Alumni Association.

Tricia Sanborn

Tricia Sanborn joined the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County (ACAAC) team in January 2021. She initially filled the role of Grants Manager, providing oversight to the organization's existing grant programs, as well as developing funding mechanisms to distribute \$1.5 million in pandemic related emergency funding to local arts organizations and independent artists. Now serving as Chief Operations Officer, Tricia works closely with President & CEO April Nyman to achieve organizational goals, overseeing ACAAC's fundraising, financial and grants management, event planning, and software and systems management functions. She also leads the organization's DEIA programming, and heads up ACAAC's annual *DEIA in the Arts* Conference. In her previous role as a contractor for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Tricia spent 13 years leading the planning, funding, execution, and evaluation of multiple national-level firefighter health and safety programs. For many years, Tricia was a dedicated volunteer for the Arts Council, as well as other Anne Arundel County organizations. She previously served on the boards of the Anne Arundel County 9/11 Memorial and We Care and Friends, and is a graduate of Leadership Anne Arundel's Flagship 2022 program.

Jackie Coleman

Currently, Jackie serves as the Executive Director for Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. In 2023 Jackie received the Michelle Obama Award from the Office of the Country Executive and the Caucus of African-American Leaders and recognition for participation in the Leadership Anne Arundel Flagship Class of 2023. Prior to relocating to Annapolis for Maryland Hall, Jackie held the position of Community Impact Officer for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in Hartford, CT. Before that, she was the Consultant for the Arts with the Connecticut State Department of Education. She has also held the position of Senior Executive Advisor for the Arts with the Hartford Public Schools where she galvanized Hartford's arts and business community along with the school district's staff to form a public/private partnership intended to inspire student success through the arts. (This partnership is formally a non-profit organization called Hartford Performs). Prior to Hartford Schools, Jackie worked as the Director of Education at Hartford Stage. She was also a Master Teaching Artist on the roster for the Connecticut Office of the Arts visiting classrooms with arts integrated lessons aligned to curriculum. She has 15 years of acting credits in and around New York City and Connecticut. She holds an MFA from the University of South Carolina and a BFA from the University of Connecticut.

Brent Everitt

Brent, a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in the National Park Service (NPS), has been at the forefront of digital media, communications, and interpretive programs across diverse parks, programs, and regional offices nationwide. His coastal upbringing in Mount Pleasant, SC, cultivated a profound respect for the environment and outdoor recreation, shaping his career trajectory. Holding a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Clemson University and a Master of Business Administration from The Citadel, Brent brings a wealth of knowledge to his role. Currently, as the Director of Communication and Visitor Experience at NPS

Chesapeake Gateways, he leads a dedicated team committed to helping partners provide authentic, inclusive, and welcoming experiences throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.