

1 **..Title**

2 **Condemning the use of African Americans for experimentation** – For the purpose of
3 condemning the unethical use of medical experiments on African Americans.

4 **..Body**

5 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
6 **City of Annapolis**

7
8 **Resolution 14-23**

9
10 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Finlayson**

11 **Co-sponsored by: Aids. Tierney, Schandelmeier, Pindell Charles, Savidge, Gay**

12
13 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

14 **Condemning the use of African Americans for experimentation**

15
16 **FOR** the purpose of condemning the unethical use of medical experiments on African
17 Americans.

18
19 **WHEREAS,** The City of Philadelphia issued an apology on October 6, 2022, for unethical
20 medical experiments on Holmesburg Prison inmates from the 1950s through the
21 1970s, and most of the inmates involved were African American; and

22
23 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Justice Programs issued a report on
24 Philadelphia’s Holmesburg Prison in 1998, “Acres of Skin: Human Experiments
25 at Holmesburg Prison,” by A.M. Hornblum stating in part, “Hundreds of prisoners
26 were used to test products from facial creams and skin moisturizers to perfumes,
27 detergents, and anti-rash treatments. Other experiments used the inmates as test
28 subjects for far more hazardous, even potentially lethal, substances, such as
29 radioactive isotopes, dioxin, and chemical warfare agents.”; and

30
31 **WHEREAS,** Millions of dollars from “many of America's leading drug and consumer-goods
32 companies [were] made available for the doctors motivated by the desire for fame
33 and money based on these medical experiments.” The report goes on to say,
34 “many of these doctors established their careers based on their experiments on
35 these inmate subjects, who were isolated, cheap, and locked away from the public
36 eye”; and

37
38 **WHEREAS,** One of the doctors who did research in Holmesburg Prison was dermatologist
39 Albert Montgomery Klingman, co-inventor of Retin-A, the acne cream and
40 wrinkle-remover, who said in a 1986 history of the University of Pennsylvania's
41 dermatology department, "It was years before the authorities knew that I was
42 conducting various studies on prisoner volunteers. Things were simpler then.

1 Informed consent was unheard of. No one asked me what I was doing. It was a
2 wonderful time," according to the Baltimore Sun (July 20, 1998); and
3

4 **WHEREAS,** African Americans from Annapolis and across Maryland were also used for
5 medical experimentation at the "Maryland Hospital for the 'Negro' Insane" -- also
6 called the Crownsville Hospital Center -- from 1911 through 2004; and
7

8 **WHEREAS,** In 2013, Capital Gazette newspaper correspondent Tom Marquardt wrote "...at its
9 worst, the [Crownsville Hospital Center] story testifies to how African-Americans
10 who were sick or mentally ill were abandoned or used for experimental research
11 that modern medical professionals would find repulsive"; and
12

13 **WHEREAS,** The hospital's 1948 annual report stated 103 patients were subjected to insulin
14 shock treatments for epilepsy, 33 lobotomies were performed, 56 patients were
15 injected with malaria, and in 1963 the hospital reported children were being
16 injected with hepatitis; and
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18 **WHEREAS,** We must all accept and learn from this extraordinarily painful history of the
19 United States, the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County and the City of
20 Annapolis; and
21

22 **WHEREAS,** The result of these past practices continues to affect the descendants of African
23 Americans throughout our country negatively; and
24

25 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

26 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the Mayor and City Council
27 hereby pledge to continue to pursue a path toward a "One Annapolis" where we listen and treat
28 one another with respect, civility, and dignity;
29

30 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the
31 Mayor and City Council apologize for medical experiments that exploited a vulnerable population
32 and for the impact that medical racism has had on generations of African Americans from the City
33 of Annapolis.