

1 **..Title**

2 ***Skipjack Wilma Lee – Docking Fee Waiver*** - For the purpose of waiving the fees for docking the
3 Chesapeake Bay skipjack, *Wilma Lee*, at the Annapolis City Dock March 31-April 2, 2023, in
4 celebration of “Maryland Day.”

5 **..Body**

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

8
9 **Resolution 4-23**

10
11 **Introduced by: Alderman Arnett**

12
13 **Referred to**

14 Finance Committee

15
16 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

17
18 ***Skipjack Wilma Lee – Docking Fee Waiver***

19
20 **FOR** the purpose of waiving the fees for docking the Chesapeake Bay skipjack, *Wilma Lee*, at
21 the Annapolis City Dock March 31-April 2, 2023, in celebration of “Maryland Day.”

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the Annapolis-based *Wilma Lee* is one of only a few remaining Chesapeake Bay
24 skipjacks out of an estimated 800 that once sailed the oyster-laden waters along the
25 Maryland, Virginia and Carolina shores and is listed on the National Register of
26 Historic Places; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, skipjacks are the official State boat of Maryland (Maryland Code, General
29 Provisions § 7-327), noted by the Maryland General Assembly at the time,
30 "Nothing better represents the way of life of Maryland watermen than the historic
31 Chesapeake Boat known as the Skipjack"; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, the *Wilma Lee* is a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States,
34 built in Wingate, Maryland, in 1940 by the well-known boat builder Bronza Parks;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, the *Wilma Lee* was purchased by the Annapolis Maritime Museum from the non-
37 profit Ocracoke Alive in June 2018 to preserve the maritime heritage of Annapolis
38 and the Chesapeake Bay region; and

39
40 **WHEREAS**, the *Wilma Lee* dredged for nearly 55 years before running into the Tilghman Island
41 drawbridge, which struck down her mast, and went through a five-year restoration
42 in 1995, modernizing her with diesel engines, air-conditioning, a generator, and
43 electric refrigeration, enabling her to continue oyster dredging along Eastern
44 Seaboard, then was severely damaged again by Hurricane Arthur in 2014 and
45 restored once again by the non-profit Ocracoke Alive in Ocracoke, North Carolina;
46 and

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2 **WHEREAS,** the *Wilma Lee* is a sloop-rigged 75-foot skipjack with a nearly 65-foot mast holding
3 more than 1,500 square feet of sail, although she is also powered by a twin John
4 Deere turbo-charged engines (150 hp).; and
5

6 **WHEREAS,** each season, the vessel visits many ports of call, welcoming people aboard for
7 education programs, chartered cruises, and community events out of the Annapolis
8 Maritime Museum; and
9

10 **WHEREAS,** the *Wilma Lee* will be visiting Annapolis at the City Dock from March 31-April 2,
11 2023, officially participating in the Maryland Day Weekend, and open for free deck
12 tours Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and
13

14 **WHEREAS,** the *Wilma Lee* is owned and managed by the 501(c)3 non-profit Annapolis
15 Maritime Museum, which relies on individual donations, corporate philanthropy,
16 and grants to bridge the gap between earned income and operating expenses each
17 year, and the museum has requested a waiver of docking fees while the skipjack is
18 docked at Annapolis City Dock for Maryland Day activities; and
19

20 **WHEREAS,** the City of Annapolis, in recognition of the Annapolis Maritime Museum's
21 mission to promote historical maritime education, foster economic development
22 and tourism, and represent the people of Maryland in every port the *Wilma Lee*
23 visits, wishes to waive the fees for her to dock while visiting Annapolis March 31,
24 2023, through April 2, 2023.
25

26 **NOW, THEREFORE,**
27

28 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the fees for docking the
29 *Wilma Lee* at the Annapolis City Dock March 31, 2023, through April 2, 2023, in celebration of
30 "Maryland Day," are hereby waived.
31

32 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this
33 resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.
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