

1 **..Title**

2 **Tennessee House of Representatives Expulsion of Democratic Members** - For the
3 purpose of supporting the three Tennessee state lawmakers who were expressing the will
4 of their constituency regarding gun control; and condemning the expulsions of two of the
5 three members of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

6 **..Body**

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

9
10 **Resolution 25-23**

11
12 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Tierney**

13 **Co-sponsored by: Mayor Buckley, Ald. O'Neill, Ald. Gay, Ald. Pindell Charles,**
14 **Ald. Schandelmeier, Ald. Savidge, Ald. Finlayson**

15
16 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

17 **Tennessee House of Representatives Expulsion of Democratic Members**

18 **FOR** the purpose of supporting the three Tennessee state lawmakers who were expressing
19 the will of their constituency regarding gun control; and condemning the expulsions
20 of two of the three members of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

21 **WHEREAS,** On March 27, 2023, a shooter killed three 9-year-old children and three
22 staff members at the Covenant School, a Presbyterian private school in
23 Nashville, Tennessee; the assailant used three weapons, including a
24 military-style semi-automatic rifle, and fired 152 rounds while on the
25 school grounds; and

26 **WHEREAS,** Protesters gathered inside and outside the Tennessee State Capitol as the
27 legislative day began on March 30, 2023, to loudly but peacefully confront
28 lawmakers about school safety; Tennessee Highway Patrol has confirmed
29 that the protests were peaceful, no protestors were arrested, and no injuries
30 or property damage were reported as a result; and

31 **WHEREAS,** Hearing no response to the protestors in the gallery above lawmakers who
32 were considering other business on the chamber floor, three State
33 Representatives -- Rep. Justin Jones (D-Nashville), Rep. Justin Pearson
34 (D-Memphis), and Rep. Gloria Johnson (D-Knoxville) -- led the gun-
35 reform protest from the floor podium; and

36 **WHEREAS,** The Tennessee House of Representatives recessed, and security cleared
37 the galleries with protestors leaving willingly; and

38
39

1 **WHEREAS,** Tennessee State House Republicans accused the trio of violating decorum
2 rules and initiated expulsion of the three instead of considering a lesser
3 punishment; up to that point, no Tennessee House of Representatives
4 member had been removed from elected office for simply violating
5 decorum rules; and
6

7 **WHEREAS,** On April 6, the Tennessee House of Representatives voted to expel Rep.
8 Jones, 72-25, and Rep. Pearson, 69-26, removing two of the youngest
9 Black lawmakers from the Tennessee General Assembly, further reducing
10 an already small minority caucus; and
11

12 **WHEREAS,** State Rep. Gloria Johnson survived expulsion by one vote, with that vote
13 drawing accusations of racism because State Rep. Johnson is white; the
14 expulsions of the two Black representatives were effective immediately,
15 temporarily removing representation for more than 150,000 Tennesseans
16 who overwhelmingly elected State Rep. Jones and State Rep. Pearson; and
17

18 **WHEREAS,** President Joe Biden called the votes “shocking, undemocratic and without
19 precedent,” condemning Tennessee’s GOP-led House for choosing to
20 “punish, silence and expel” representatives rather than “debating the
21 merits of the issue”;
22

23 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ANNAPOLIS CITY**
24 **COUNCIL** condemns the expulsions as a violation of the First Amendment, which
25 protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government
26 for a redress of grievances;
27

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL**
29 believes this act was a provocative and disproportionate response to the actions of the
30 three representatives;
31

32 **AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that,
33 more importantly, the silencing of these voices is an erosion of civility and democratic
34 norms and an irreparable assault on democracy,