

1 **..Title**

2 **Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week** – For the purpose of recognizing the third annual  
3 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week from June 2-10, 2019; and urging Annapolis residents  
4 and guests to participate in the plethora of educational and environmental events, activities,  
5 and programs that are designed to increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake  
6 Bay to the State, the region, and the United States.

7 **..Body**

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

10  
11 **Resolution 23-19**

12  
13 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Finlayson**

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15  
16 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

17  
18 **Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**

19  
20 **FOR** the purpose of recognizing the third annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week from  
21 June 2-10, 2019; and urging Annapolis residents and guests to participate in the  
22 plethora of educational and environmental events, activities, and programs that are  
23 designed to increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake Bay to the  
24 State, the region, and the United States.

25  
26 **WHEREAS,** in 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Commission championed the notion of  
27 designating the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week;  
28 and

29  
30 **WHEREAS,** legislation establishing the special week has been enacted in Virginia,  
31 Maryland and Pennsylvania; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS,** the Chesapeake Bay is the largest and, at one time, was the most productive  
34 estuary in the United States, spanning six states and the District of  
35 Columbia; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS,** the Chesapeake Bay watershed is an extraordinary and vital natural  
38 resource, as well as an integral part of the history and heritage of the State;  
39 and

40  
41 **WHEREAS,** the Chesapeake Bay is fed by 50 major tributaries, including the  
42 Susquehanna River, Potomac River, Patuxent River, Rappahannock River,  
43 York River, and James River, and contains more than 15 trillion gallons of  
44 water; and

45

1 **WHEREAS**, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay stretches  
2 200 miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Norfolk, Virginia, has an  
3 average depth of 21 feet, ranges from 3.4 miles to 35 miles wide, supports  
4 more than 300 species of finfish, more than 170 species of shellfish, more  
5 than 3,600 species of plant and animal life, including 2,700 types of plants,  
6 and more than 16 species of underwater grasses; and  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay area is home to more than 17 million people, many of  
9 whom rely on the Bay for their livelihood and recreational activities; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, as an important source of food for the State and the East Coast of the United  
12 States, the Chesapeake Bay produces more than 500 million pounds of  
13 seafood harvest each year; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, there are many issues that detrimentally affect the health of the Chesapeake  
16 Bay, one of which is polluted runoff: rain water that runs off our streets,  
17 parking lots, lawns, and other surfaces, picking up pet waste, pesticides,  
18 fertilizer, oil, and other contaminants, which flush straight into local creeks,  
19 rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay, adversely affecting water quality and  
20 aquatic life; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS** currents of runoff scour stream banks, destabilize the natural contours of the  
23 streams, and even alter their depths; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS** eroded dirt from runoff blocks sunlight from reaching underwater grasses,  
26 smothers the aquatic homes of oysters and other life, kills grasses and  
27 marine life, imperils fish and other creatures that rely on them, and carries  
28 nutrients that spur algae blooms that cause low oxygen and kill fish; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS** runoff is one of the main reasons the Bay remains on the "dirty waters" list  
31 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, there are several proven strategies that residents and communities can  
34 implement to absorb runoff and reduce the risk of routine flooding and  
35 damage from polluted runoff, including: planting trees, creating vegetated  
36 areas ("rain gardens"), installing porous driveway parking, installing roofs  
37 with plants that drink up rain ("green roofs"), installing "rain barrels" to  
38 collect rain from roof downspouts, and use it on landscaping, and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the rich history, pivotal economic importance, and astounding beauty of the  
41 Chesapeake Bay watershed never cease to amaze residents and visitors  
42 alike; and  
43  
44

1 **WHEREAS**, the special designation of the week encourages us all to celebrate the  
2 Chesapeake Bay with events, activities, and educational programs designed  
3 to raise awareness of the importance of this national treasure.  
4

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6 **NOW THEREFORE,**

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8 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City of  
9 Annapolis recognizes June 2-10, 2019, as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

10  
11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that  
12 the City of Annapolis urges its residents and guests to participate in the plethora of  
13 educational and environmental events, activities, and programs that are designed to  
14 increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake Bay to the State, the region, and  
15 the United States.

16  
17 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that  
18 this resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.  
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21 **EXPLANATION**

22 Underline indicates matter added.

23 ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken.