



Legislative Summary

CA-3-26

Expanding the Preamble of The Charter of the City of Annapolis

The City of Annapolis Office of Law created this summary for the use of Annapolis City Council members during their consideration of the legislation.

Note: This summary outlines the legislation as introduced and does not address any amendments.

Bill Summary

CA-3-26 adds a new paragraph to the Preamble of The Charter of the City of Annapolis. The Preamble is the Charter's opening statement that explains the purpose and values of the city's government.

Background

The original Preamble focuses on the legal basis and administrative purpose of self-government for the City of Annapolis. CA-3-26 keeps the original preamble and creates a second paragraph that states the City's current values.

Summary of the Original Preamble

The Preamble of the Annapolis City Charter currently states that the people of Annapolis, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, are using their long-standing right to organize and run their own local government. It states that the purpose of the Charter is to:

- Set up an orderly way to carry out city government functions
- Make sure public funds are used responsibly
- Promote the general welfare of residents
- Secure the benefits of home rule, meaning the city's ability to govern itself under Maryland's constitution and laws



Why Add a Second Paragraph?

Charter Amendment 3-26 follows a recommendation made by the 2021 Charter Revision Commission. Every ten years, the City Council appoints a group of residents to review the Charter and recommend improvements.

In its September 13, 2021, final report, the Commission recommended "Position 1: Strengthen the Preamble," by adding a second paragraph to the Preamble to broaden and modernize the scope of what we now call a purpose paragraph.

Details

CA-3-26 states that the city is committed to:

- Fair representation of all people living in Annapolis;
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in city government;
- Protecting the human, civil, and voting rights of residents;
- A safe, clean, and healthy environment for residents, employees, and visitors;
- Protecting the community from threats to public safety and to the ongoing operation of the city government;
- Caring for the Chesapeake Bay and the natural systems the city depends on; and
- Preparing for the effects of climate change and rising sea levels.