CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS

RESOLUTION NO. R-58-89

Introduced by Mayor Hopkins
Alderman Moyer

A RESOLUTION concerning

The Severn River Commission

FOR the purpose of reestablishing the Severn River Commission; and all matters relating to said Commission.

WHEREAS, in 1971, the General Assembly of the State of Maryland recognized that the Severn River is notable for fine scenery and its rich historic heritage, for its many ecologically important sites, and for varied recreational opportunities, and consequently designated the Severn River as one of Maryland's "Scenic Rivers"; and

WHEREAS, the policy established for the State's Scenic rivers is to preserve and protect the natural values for these rivers, enhance the water quality, and fulfill vital conservation purposes by wise use of resources within the surrounding environment; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Severn River Advisory Board in conjunction with the Scenic Rivers Staff of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources completed a study of the Severn River entitled "Maryland Scenic Rivers: The Severn"; and

WHEREAS, the study proposes several recommendations as to how the Severn's natural, scenic, and cultural heritage may be protected; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, a study entitled "A Greenway Strategy for Weems Creek", conducted by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Weems Creek Conservancy, presents a resource inventory and analysis and sets forth options for alternative management strategies for the conservation of Weems Creek; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Anne Arundel County Council adopted the General Development Plan which established the policy of protecting and enhancing the scenic qualities of the Severn River; and
WHEREAS, the City of Annapolis has within its boundaries approximately eighteen miles of waterfront along the Severn River and its tributaries which constitute an environmental resource of inestimable value to County and City residents and visitors to the area; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the General Assembly created the Chesapeake Bay Area Protection Program to protect the natural habitats and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, which include the Severn River; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-403(g) of the Natural Resources Article of the Maryland Annotated Code provides that a political subdivision may establish a scenic river advisory board to further the aims of the Scenic and Wild Rivers Act; and

WHEREAS, the formation of an advisory board to provide counsel and advice on the stewardship of the Severn River watershed in accord with the Act, the studies, and the plans, is a goal which is mutually desirable to the City of Annapolis and to Anne Arundel County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Annapolis City Council adopted Resolution R-55-84 Revised on November 19, 1984 establishing the Severn River Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution shall stand repealed on December 31, 1989, unless readopted by the City Council.

WHEREAS, the City of Annapolis further desires to cite other commissions and agencies, created by the authority of the charter and Code of the City of Annapolis, whose duties are related to issues of conservation of open space, preservation of wildlife, and the protection of the Severn River and those tributaries of the Severn River and Chesapeake Bay that lie within the corporate boundaries of the City of Annapolis, and in citing those commissions and agencies, clearly provide that the powers and duties hereby granted to the Severn River Commission do not supersede, and shall not be superior to, the powers and duties of those other city created commissions and agencies; and

WHEREAS, those other commissions and agencies include, but are not limited to, the Annapolis Conservancy Board, the Environmental Commission and the Board of Port Wardens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the Severn River Commission be and is hereby reestablished. For the purposes of defining the jurisdiction of the Commission,
the boundaries of the Severn River shall include the entire watershed, and the boundaries defined in the Anne Arundel County Watershed Management Program as shown on the map to this Resolution and made a part hereof.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the purpose and membership of the Commission shall be as follows:

A. The Commission shall provide counsel and advice to Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, and the State of Maryland. The duties of the Commission shall be:

1. To adopt policies, procedures and bylaws governing the conduct of business and the mandatory attendance requirements of its membership.

2. To prepare a written biannual report outlining the activities, goals and accomplishments of the Commission. This report shall be submitted to both the Anne Arundel County Council and the Annapolis City Council in January.

3. To include as part of its biannual report a completed review and recommendations concerning the implementation of the studies entitled "Maryland Scenic River: The Severn" and "A Greenway Strategy for Weems Creek".

4. To initiate and recommend policies and regulations to enhance and protect the natural, historic and scenic quality of the Severn River watershed.

5. To review studies, policies, and rules formulated by federal, state and local government agencies that concern the Severn River watershed, and to comment on such proposals as appropriate.

6. To review and make recommendations concerning the implementation of the studies entitled the "Maryland Scenic River: The Severn" and "A Greenway Strategy for Weems Creek".

7. To review and make recommendations on federal, state, county and local programs, regulations, and public and private projects, including land use and development proposals, which the Commission believes may have an impact on the Severn River Watershed.
B. Membership.

1. The membership of the Commission shall consist of nine voting members and six or more ex officio, nonvoting members.

2. The County Executive, in consultation with the Mayor of the City of Annapolis, shall appoint a Chairman from among the nine voting members.

3. Members shall serve for a term of three years from the date of appointment.

4. A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

5. Members shall serve without compensation.

6. If a vacancy occurs, the new appointment shall be made in the manner described herein for the position vacated and for the balance of the unexpired term of the preceding member.

C. Voting Members.

1. Subject to the confirmation by the City Council, the Mayor of the City of Annapolis shall appoint two City residents as members.

2. Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint seven members. Of the seven members, at least five shall be residents of the Severn River watershed.

D. Ex Officio, Nonvoting Members.

1. The County Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the County Council, shall appoint a County Councilman to serve "ex officio".

2. The Mayor of the City of Annapolis shall appoint a member of the Annapolis City Council to serve "ex officio".

3. In consultation with the Mayor of the City of Annapolis, the County Executive shall invite a member of the Maryland State Senate and a member of the House of Delegates, each representative of the Severn River watershed, to serve "ex officio".
4. The County Executive shall invite the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and any other State agency deemed appropriate, to appoint a representative to serve "ex officio".

5. The ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission from the County Council, City Council, and State Senate and House of Delegates shall be rotated annually through elected officials from the Severn River watershed, unless the incumbent wishes to continue to serve and has met the attendance requirements established for voting members.

E. This resolution shall not limit the ability or participation of Commission members to serve as appointed or volunteer members of the Severn River Land Trust or the Anne Arundel Conservation Trust or such other organizations as the County Executive or Mayor may deem appropriate.

F. Upon the recommendation and request of the County Executive, the Severn River Commission shall serve in a full advisory capacity to the Severn River Land Trust and the Anne Arundel Conservation Trust.

G. Subject to the appropriation of funds, the County and the City shall provide professional and technical staff assistance to the Commission in performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that this Resolution shall become effective from and after the date upon which a substantially similar and essentially compatible resolution is adopted by the Anne Arundel County Council, and thereafter shall remain in effect so long as the County's similar and compatible resolution shall remain in effect.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the power and duties hereby granted to the Severn River Commission do not supersede, and shall not be superior to, the powers and duties of those other city created commissions and agencies, including, but not limited to, the Annapolis Conservancy Board, the Environmental Commission and the Board of Port Wardens.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the individuals who are members of the Commission at the time this Resolution takes effect shall remain members for the balance of the terms to which they are appointed.
ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 1989.

THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL

BY: ALFRED A. HOPKINS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Patricia L. Bembe, CMC/AAE
City Clerk