

INTRODUCED JUL 13 1998

A RESOLUTION *No. 98-R102-107*

Expedited Consideration

ADOPTED JUL 13 1998

Concerning the historical significance of the Manchester Docks, the slave trail and Lumpkin's Jail; establishing the Slave Trail Commission; and establishing the "Night Walk Along the Slave Trail" as an annual event to be observed and celebrated in the City of Richmond.

Patron – Mr. El-Amin

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING **JUL 13 1998** AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond through Resolution No. 94-R91-101, adopted on March 28, 1994 created the Richmond Unity Walk Commission ("Commission") which purpose was to establish the Richmond Unity Walk as a permanent national educational resource, as a contribution to the healing of Richmond's racial history; and

WHEREAS, the Commission constructed a memorial at Manchester Docks on June 18, 1994 to honor those Africans who died on slave ships and those who landed here as slaves and helped to build the City and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recognized the site of Lumpkin's Jail, the former slave holding pen, which became the original site of Virginia Union University; and

WHEREAS, the "Hope in the Cities" organization and the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, in partnership with the Elegba Folklore Society, sponsored

on June 17, 1998 a “Night Walk Along the Slave Trail”. That event featured a walk along the trail that Africans took upon their arrival into the United States at the Manchester Docks, to the site of Lumpkin's Jail, and to the city’s slave auction block; and

WHEREAS, the slave trail was developed as a result of the discovery of the Manchester Dock and Lumpkin's Jail and was worked on by volunteers from around the city, who donated their time, talents and resources to clear and open up the path; and

WHEREAS, the “Night Walk Along the Slave Trail” promoted the building of bridges and initiated a process of repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation for all the people of the metropolitan area of Richmond and has provided a meaningful step in the quest for constructive race relations in this City and Nation; and

WHEREAS, the past provides positive and reinforcing linkages to the present. NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

That the “Night Walk Along the Slave Trail” be and is hereby established as an annual event in the City of Richmond to be observed and celebrated on the last Saturday of June of each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That there be and is hereby established and created a Slave Trail Commission to be composed of fifteen (15) members. Such persons shall be appointed by the Council and shall serve for terms of three (3) years.

2. That the membership of the Commission shall include the 6th District Councilperson, not less than three (3) members of the “Hope in the Cities” organization and a

representative from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. The 6th District Councilperson shall be given the first option of serving as the Chair of the Commission.

3. Subject to the plans of the City's Department of Public Utilities, the City Manager is directed to take the necessary steps to have the site of the Manchester Docks set aside and designated as an historical landmark by the appropriate state and federal authorities and organizations. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities shall not approve activities on the site of the Manchester Docks that are not connected to or are in furtherance of the spirit, aims and objectives of the Slave Trail Commission.

4. That the City Manager is hereby directed to take appropriate steps to develop at the Manchester Docks an information center and display to be designed and constructed with public and private donations. Such information center and display shall be subject to the approval of the Slave Trail Commission, with input from the Richmond Unity Walk Commission. The City Manager is directed to report to the Council the estimated costs of making such improvements at the Manchester Docks.

5. That the City Manager is further directed to take the appropriate steps to have the slave trail along the James River set aside and designated as an historical landmark by appropriate state and federal agencies and organizations. The City Manager is also directed to make such improvements along the slave trail, such as appropriate lighting, that are appropriate and consistent with the fact that the trail is on the James River flood plain so that interested persons, including those physically challenged, may travel the trail at night with relative safety and comfort. The City Manager is directed to report to Council the estimated costs of making such improvements along the slave trail.

6. That the City Manager is further directed to investigate and report to the Council the feasibility of acquiring title to the site of Lumpkin's Jail and establishing a museum to commemorate and honor those Africans who passed through that facility as slaves on their way to other parts of the American South.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City of Richmond establish either a formal Sister City relationship or other official relationship with Gore Island, (Dakar) Senegal, one of the many points of embarkation in West Africa for the sale of captured Africans who were transported to the west for purposes of enslavement throughout the Western Diaspora. This relationship will link one of the points of African embarkation with one of the points of debarkation in the Western Diaspora.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



CITY CLERK