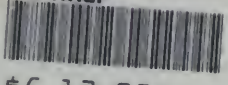


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THE DONGAN CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK 1683

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THOMAS DONGAN Lieut. Governor and Vice Admiral of New York
 and its Dependencies under his Majesty James the Second by the Grace
 of God of England, Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the
 faith ----- To all to whom this shall come SENDETH GREETING
 WHEREAS the City of New York is an ancient city within the said Pro-
 vince - - - - - KNOW YE therefor that I the said Thomas
 Dongan by virtue of the Commission and Authority unto me given and
 power in me residing at the humble petition of the now Mayor Alder-
 men and Commonalty of the said city of New York and for divers other
 good causes and considerations me thereunto moving have given, granted
 ratified and confirmed and by these presents for and on behalf of
 his most Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs, successors and assigns
 do give, grant ratify and confirm unto the said Mayor Aldermen and
 Commonalty of the said city all and every such and the same liberties,
 privileges and franchises, rights, royalties, free customs, juris-
 dictions and immunities which they by the name of the Mayor Aldermen
 and Commonalty or otherwise have anciently held exercised or enjoyed;
 - - - - - and the aforesaid public buildings accomo-
 dations and conveniences in the said city (that is to say) the afore-
 said City Hall or State House - - - - - and
 also all and every the streets, lanes, highways and alleys within the
 said city of New York and Manhattan Island aforesaid for the public
 use and service of the said Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the
 said city and of the inhabitants of Manhattan Island aforesaid
 and travellers there, together with full power license and author-
 ity to the said Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty and their successors
 forever to establish, appoint, order and direct the establishing,
 making,
 laying out, ordering amending and repairing of all streets, lanes,
 alleys, highways, watercourses, ferries and bridges in and throughout
 the said City of New York and Manhattan Island aforesaid necessary,
 needfull and convenient for the inhabitants of the said city and Man-
 hattan Island aforesaid and for all travellers and passengers there,
 Provided always that this said license ----- be not extended
 or be construed to extend to the taking away of any person or persons
 right or property without his ^{or their} her consent or by some known law
 of the said Province. - - - - -

And also I do for and on behalf of his Most Sacred Majesty
 aforesaid, his heirs and successors, grant to the Mayor Alderman

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and Commonalty of the said City of New York and their successors, by these presents, that, for the better government of the said city liberties and precincts thereof, there shall be forever hereafter within the said city, a Mayor and Recorder, Town Clerk and six Aldermen and six Assistants, to be appointed, nominated, elected, chosen and sworn as hereinafter is particularly and respectively mentioned, who shall be forever hereafter called the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York; and that there shall be forever one Chamberlain or Treasurer, one Sheriff, one Coroner, one Clerk of the Market, one High Constable, seven Subconstables and one Marshall or Sergeant at Mace to be appointed chosen and sworn in manner hereinafter mentioned.

AND I do by these presents ----- declare, constitute, grant and appoint that the Mayor, Recorder, Alderman and Assistants of the said City of New York for the time being - - - - - and their successors forever hereafter be and shall be by force of these presents one body corporate and politic in deed fact and name by the name of the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York, ----- (provides for perpetual succession, use of seal, right to sue and be sued etc.,)

AND further KNOW YE that I have assigned, named, ordained and constituted and by these presents do assign, name, ordain and constitute Nicholas Bayard, now Mayor of the said City of New York to be present Mayor of the said City and that the said Nicholas Bayard shall remain and continue in the office of Mayor there until another fit person shall be appointed and sworn in the said office according to the usage and custom of the said city and as in and by these presents is hereafter mentioned and directed. (Here follow similar appointments to the other offices mentioned except constables)

AND I do by these presents grant to the said Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the said City of New York and their successors that the Mayor Recorder Alderman and Assistants for the time being or the Mayor Recorder and any three or more of the Alderman and any three or more of the Assistants for the time being, be and shall be called the Common Council of the said city; And that they or the greater part of them shall or may have full ^{power and} authority by virtue of these presents, from time to time to call and hold Common Council within the Common Council House or City Hall of the said city and there, as occasion shall be, to make laws, orders, ordinances and constitutions in writing and to add, alter, diminish or reform them from time to

time as to that shall seem necessary and convenient (Not repugnant to the prerogative of his Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, or to any law of the Kingdom of England or other the laws of the General Assembly of the Province of New York) ----- which laws, orders, ordinances and constitutions so by them made as aforesaid shall be and remain in force for the space of three months and no longer unless they shall be allowed of and confirmed by the Governor and Council for the time being .

And I do further on the behalf of his Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors appoint and grant that the said Common Council of the said city for the time being as often as they make, ordain and establish such laws, orders, ordinances and constitutions as aforesaid shall or may make ordain, limit, provide, set impose and tax reasonable fines and amercements against and upon all persons offending against such laws, orders, ordinances and constitutions as aforesaid - - - - -
- - - - -

And I do by these presents appoint and ordaine the assigning, naming and appointment of the Mayor and Sheriff of the said city that shall be as followeth (vizt) upon the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel yearly the (14th of October) Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being by and with the advice of his Council shall nominate and appointe such person as he shall think fit to be Mayor of the said city for the year next ensuing and one other person of sufficient ability in estate, and of good capacity in understanding to be Sheriff of the said city of New York for the year next ensuing

And that such Person as shall be named, assigned and appointed mayor ^{that} and such person as shall be named, assigned and appointed Sheriff of the said city as aforesaid shall on the fourteenth day of October then next following take their several and respective Corporal oaths before the Governor and Council for the time being for the due execution of their respective offices as aforesaid and that the said Mayor and Sheriff so to be nominated assigned and appointed as aforesaid shall remain and continue in their said respective offices until another fit person shall be nominated, appointed and sworn - - - - -

And further that according to the now usage and custom of the said city the Recorder, Town Clerk, and Clerk of the Market of ye said city shall be persons of good capacity and understanding and such persons as his Most Sacred Majesty - - - - - shall appoint and commissionate, and for defect

of such appointment and commissionateing - - - - - to be such person as the Lieut. Governor or Commander in Chief of the said Province for the time being shall appoint and commissionate which persons - - - - - shall have hold and enjoy the said offices according to the tenor and effect of their said commissions and not otherwise.

And further that the Recorder, Town Clerk, Clerk of the Market, Aldermen, Assistants, Chamberlain, High Constables, Petty Constables and all other officers of the said city, before they or any of them shall be admitted to enter upon and execute yeur respective offices, shall be worn faithfully to execute the same before the Mayor or any three or more of the Aldermen for the time being - - - - -

AND further I do by these presents grant for and on behalf of his most Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, that the Mayor and Recorder of the said city for the time being and three or more of the Aldermen of the said city, not exceeding five, shall be Justices and keepers of the peace of his most Scared Majesty, his heirs and successors, and justices to hear and determine matters and causes within the said city and liberties a and precincts thereof

And they or any three or more of them, whereof the Mayor and Recorder or one of them for the time being to be there, shall and may forever hereafter have power and authority by virtue of these presents to hear and determine all and all manner of petty larcenies, riots, routs, oppressions, extortions and other trespasses and offenses whatsoever within the said city of New York and the liberties and precincts aforesaid from time to time arising and happening and which arise or happen and any ways belong to the office of Justice of the Peace, and the correction and punishment of the offenses aforesaid and every of them according to the laws of England and the laws of the said Province, and to do and execute all other things in the said city, liberties and precincts aforesaid and so full and in ample manner as to the XCommissioners assign and to be assigned for the keeping of the peace in the said County of New York doth or may belong

AND more over I do by these presents for and on behalf of his most Scared Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, appoint that the Aldermen, Assistants, High Constable and Petty Constables within the said city be yearly chosen on the feast day of ST. Michael the Archangel foerver (vzt) one Alderman one Assistant and one Constable from each respective ward and one constable for each division in the out ward in such public place in the said respective wards as the Aldermen for the time being for each ward shall direct and appoint, and that the Aldermen, Assistants and Petty

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Constables be chosen by majority of voices of the inhabitants of each ward, and that the High Constable be appointed by the Mayor of the said city for the time being, and that the Chamberlain shall be chosen on the said feast day in the City Hall of the said city by the Mayor and Aldermen and Assistants or by the Mayor or three or more of the Aldermen and three or more of the Assistants of the said city for the time being.

And further I do by these presents, for and on behalf of his most Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, require and strictly charge and command that the Sheriff, Town Clerk, Clerk of the Peace, High Constable, Petty Constables and all other subordinate officers in the said city for the time being, and every of them jointly and severally as cause shall require, shall attend upon the said

Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the said city for the time being and every

or any of them, according to the duty of their respective places in and about the the executing of such the commands, precepts, warrants and process of them and every of them as belongeth and appertaineth to be done or executed; and that the aforesaid Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen and every of them as Justices of the Peace for the time being by their warrants all and every person and persons for high treason, or petty treason, or for suspicion thereof, or for other felonies whatsoever, and all malefactors and disturbers of the peace and others offenders for other misdemeanors who shall be apprehended within the said city or liberties thereof, shall and may send and commit or cause to be sent and committed to the common gaol of the said city, there to remain and be kept in safe custody by the keeper of the said gaol or his deputy for the time being until offender and offenders shall lawfully be delivered thence----- .

And further I do grant and confirm for and on behalf of his most Sacred Majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, that the said Mayor of the said city for the time being, and no other (according to the usage and custom practised in the said city of New York in the times of My predecessors the several Lieutenants Governors and Commanders in Chief of this Province) Shall have power and authority to give and grant licences annually under the public seal of the said city to all tavern keepers, Innkeepers, Ordinary keepers, Victuallers and all public sellers of wine, strong waters, cider, beer or any other sort of liquors by retail within the city aforesaid, Manhattan Island or the liberties and precincts thereof; and that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Mayor of the said city for the time being to ask, demand and receive for such license by him to be given and granted as aforesaid such sum or sums of money as he and the person to whom

such license shall be given or granted shall agree for, not exceeding the sum of thirty shillings for each license, all which money as by the said Mayor shall be so received shall be used and applied to the public use of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the said city of New York - - - - -

And know yet that I for the better government of the said city - - - - - give and grant to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the said city and their successors, that the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, or the Mayor and any three or more of the Aldermen for the time being, shall from time to time and at all times thereafter have full power and authority under the common seal to make Free citizens of the said city and liberties thereof, and no person or persons whatsoever other than such free citizens shall hereafter use any art, trade, mystery, or manual occupation within the said city liberties and precincts thereof, saving in the times of fairs there to be kept and during the continuance of such fairs only - - - - - provided that no person or persons shall be made free as aforesaid but such as are his Majesty's natural born subject or such as shall first be naturalized by Act of General Assembly or shall have obtained letters of denization under the hand of the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being and Seal of the Province; and that all persons to be made free as aforesaid shall and do pay for the public use of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the said city such sum and sums of money as heretofore hath been used and accustomed to be paid and received on their being admitted freemen as aforesaid, provided it is not exceeding the sum of five pounds.

(The charter then confers on the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city the power to take hold and dispose of real estate not to exceed the yearly value of one thousand pounds; and to have three market days a week)

And also I do by these presents for and on behalf of his most Sacred Majesty aforesaid his heirs and successors grant to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the said city that they and their successors and assigns shall and may at any time or times hereafter when it to them shall seem fit and convenient take in, fill and make up and lay out all and singular the land and ground in and about the said city and Island Manhattan and the same to build upon or make use of in any other manner or way as to them shall seem fit as far into the rivers thereof, and that encompass the same, as low water mark aforesaid.

(Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or any three of them of whom the Mayor or Recorder shall be one made a Court of Common pleas in all "actions of debt, trespass, trespass upon the case, detinue, ejectments and other personal actions. The charter then confirms upon the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty all customary "privileges franchises and powers", reserves certain property to the crown and forbids the corporation doing anything to cause the waste or misapplication of charitable trusts)

In witness whereof I have caused these presents to be entered in the Secretary's office an the seal of the said Province to be hereunto affixed, this seven and twentieth day of April in the second year of the reign of his most Sacred Majesty afresaid and in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and eighty-six.

THOMAS DONGAN.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

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Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

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