

MOVE MS. DISSON

RESOLUTION NO. 86-2014

I offer the following Resolution and move its adoption: *Wanda R. D. Williams*

A Resolution signifying the support of the City Council for a request to suspend the transfer of certain Hotel Tax revenue funds for the exclusive use of the National Civil War Museum.

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisburg has experienced profound fiscal distress, ultimately leading to receivership and related judicial proceedings that confirmed a negotiated reorganization of the City's assets and many liabilities; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding those financial difficulties, the City has remained primarily responsible for securing the health, safety and welfare of those who live, work or travel in our borders; and

WHEREAS, in the course of its reorganization and receivership, the City has embarked on the implementation of a multi-year Recovery Plan that anticipates better fiscal management, spending controls and governmental practices, including actions to increase recurring revenues and decrease ongoing costs; and

WHEREAS, one aspect of increasing recurring revenues will be to better direct and monitor existing resources, including all revenue streams authorized by the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has authorized a Hotel Tax that is routinely collected by County governments for distribution for the promotion of tourism and the payment of tourism-related public debt incurred or authorized by local governments; and

WHEREAS, a portion of those Hotel Tax revenues are required to be directed to tourism organizations to promote Third Class Cities, such as Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, in addition to other public benefits, the National Civil War Museum has received a portion of the Hotel Tax revenues designated for the promotion of Harrisburg tourism for many years; and

WHEREAS, the National Civil War Museum has been unable to adequately demonstrate a measurable, tangible economic benefit to tourism in the City of Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the fact that the National Civil War Museum facilities are exclusively owned by the City and that the archival collection housed therein consists mostly of objects owned by the City, the Museum has operated rent-free for more than 14 years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to operating rent-free, the National Civil War Museum has received various forms of direct financial assistance from the City, including approximately \$12,000,000.00 in direct payments; and

WHEREAS, the National Civil War Museum has declined to contribute rental payments even when requested to do so at the height of the City's fiscal crisis; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the many fiscal burdens and limitations to be overcome by the City to ensure the ongoing health, safety and welfare of all those who live, work and travel here and to fulfill the mandates of the Recovery Plan, the people of Harrisburg cannot operate as the philanthropic underwriter of the National Civil War Museum's private organization and activities; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding its public expressions of intent to the contrary, the National Civil War Museum has demonstrated no inclination and no realistic ability to operate as a self-sufficient, self-sustaining institution over 14 years of operations; and

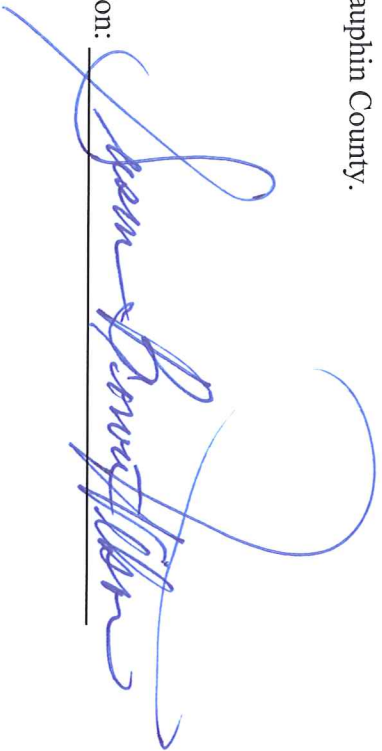
WHEREAS, the National Civil War Museum has been unable to secure sufficient funds to pay its own past operational expenses and admittedly tapped public tax dollars distributed for the exclusive purpose of the promotion of tourism as funds for internal operational expenses, the City of Harrisburg, through Mayor Papenfuss, has made a direct public plea to the Commissioners of Dauphin County to immediately and indefinitely suspend or otherwise freeze all payments of funds from any Hotel Tax monies earmarked for the promotion of City tourism to or for the benefit of the National Civil War Museum; and

WHEREAS, upon the careful consideration of the foregoing facts, the City Council stands in agreement with the Mayor in this matter and offers its support for this request to the Commissioners of Dauphin County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISBURG hereby publicly concurs and joins in the request to the Commissioners of Dauphin County that they suspend and otherwise freeze all payments of Hotel Tax revenue designated for the promotion of the City of Harrisburg to or for the benefit of the National Civil War Museum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon approval and recordation of this Resolution in the official journals of the City Council, the City Clerk is authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to effectuate the purpose of this Resolution, including causing a certified copy hereof to be promptly forwarded to the Clerk of Dauphin County as a communication of this body to the Commissioners of Dauphin County.

I second the Resolution:



YEAS	NAYS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. ALLATT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. BALTIMORE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. DANIELS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. KOPLINSKI	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. REID	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. WILSON	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. WILLIAMS	
Yeas <u>7</u>	
Nays <u>0</u>	

Passed the City Council August 26, 2014.

Harold R. Williams
 President of City Council

[Signature]
 City Clerk

Approved

INTER

OFFICE

MEMO

To: HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
From: Kirk Petroski, City Clerk
LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM

Date: August 25, 2014

LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM/CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

BILL NO. -2014 RESOLUTION NO. 86-2014

THE ABOVE LISTED ITEM WAS WRITTEN AND PREPARED FOR FINAL INTRODUCTION AT THE HARRISBURG CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE ON:

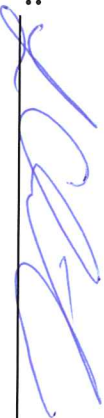

For Neil Groves
City Solicitor

8/25/14
Date

Requested by Department/Bureau: Mayor's office
Department/Bureau Contact Person: Catherine Stehler

For Action on or before:

The attached was received in the Office of the City Clerk for introduction on

Received by: 

Date: 8/25/14