



## **Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture**

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January 26, 2024

Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee:

The following is submitted on behalf of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in support of House Bill 390. The Commission enthusiastically supports the name change of the Banneker-Douglass Museum to the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, to honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

The Banneker Douglass Museum is Maryland's official museum for African American History and Culture. Since its establishment in 1984 by the late Honorable State Senator Verda F. Welcome and the late, legendary Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles, the Museum has championed the important work of ensuring that the African American experience remains an accurate and integral part of Maryland History. However, as the Museum addresses the omission of Black Marylanders from the state's history, it is equally important that women of color are also included. Racism and sexism are allies in the intentional curation of inaccurate historical narratives of the African American experience in Maryland and throughout our nation.

The Commission is committed to preserving, protecting, defending, illuminating and disseminating the African American experience in Maryland and applauds this legislation, which is aligned and in concert with the critical work that we do. This name change will send a clear message to all that the great state of Maryland acknowledges, celebrates and honors the contributions of women of color. This name change is indeed long overdue. Harriet Tubman epitomizes the greatness of women of color in Maryland and it would be most appropriate for the state to have an official museum which bear her name.

We implore you to vote in favor of House Bill 390. Harriet Tubman is the right addition and it is always the right time to correct History! Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Edwin T. Johnson, Chair

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