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February 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 47 - Commission on State and Local Government Real Property
Bearing Confederate Names - Establishment (Support)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports House Bill 47 - Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names - Establishment. HB 47 establishes a commission to identify state and local government real property bearing Confederate names and make recommendations regarding properties that should be renamed.

This legislation aligns with the Office's commitment to promoting equity, protecting civil rights, and ensuring that all Marylanders are treated with dignity and respect. Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, an Army veteran who deployed to Iraq and served our nation with distinction, has long maintained that individuals who took up arms against the United States to preserve slavery and defend white supremacy do not deserve to be honored through the naming of public property. As the Attorney General has noted regarding similarly named military installations, he "learned to fly helicopters at Ft. Rucker, deployed to Iraq from Ft. Bragg, and earned [his] jump wings at Ft. Benning. All these bases honored men who wouldn't want [him] or other Black Americans serving in uniform, let alone in Congress."¹

The same principle applies to Maryland's streets, buildings, parks, and subdivisions. Marylanders should not be required to conduct their daily lives, including attending school, visiting parks, or traveling through their communities, on property that lionizes those who fought to preserve their

¹ Statement by Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD) responding to the Naming Commission's recommendations for Army base name changes, May 24, 2022.

enslavement and deny their humanity. The Commission established by this legislation will provide a systematic, thoughtful framework to identify such properties and recommend appropriate changes, ensuring that Maryland's public spaces honor individuals and values worthy of commemoration.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 47 a favorable report.

Cc: Members of the Committee