

To The Honourable The Speaker & House of Delegates now Assembled.

The petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, Men & other Freeholders of the Borough of Norfolk
Humbly sheweth, That your petitioners being informed that Application is intended to be made to your Honble House to lay off &
regulate the Streets of the said Borough, are of Opinion that such a step may be necessary. Yet previous to any Application
they beg leave to represent to you the distressed Situation of the Inhabitants of the said Borough, & their Inability to execute any
plan that may be adopted. That your petitioners, notwithstanding the various false Reports to the contrary, have ever been
warmly attached to the Country & the Cause of Liberty; & yet from Misrepresentation have shared the same Fate with our open &
avowed Enemies. In consequence of which ourselves & Families have been reduced to the greatest Distress. Numbers of Widows
& Orphans who before enjoyed every Comfort of Life are rendered truly miserable. They have been drove from their peaceful
Habitations into the streets without Food or Raiment, at a most inclement Season, where many have perished. Such Scenes of
Distress have presented themselves to our Views, as would melt the Heart of the most unfeeling Slave. Most of them have
hitherto been abandoned to their Friends, & shew of what little they had left. They now offer up their Prayers to you, & to you
look up for Protection & Redress, as they have been deprived of the means of Subsistence by the werry People, who were sent
by the Country for their protection. Your petitioners apprehend it would be needless to inform this Honble House, that the
greatest part of the Town at the first Conflagration was wantonly destroyed by the provincial Troops, which we are ready to
make appear if necessary: Notwithstanding the Declaration of the Committee of Safety dated Friday 24th Nov. 1775, wherein they set
forth that the Troops destined for this part of the Country, were particularly instructed to support & protect the Persons & properties
of the Inhabitants of the said Borough. We are fully convinced such licentious & disorderly Conduct must be highly disapproved
of by this Honble House & every Man of Feeling & Humanity. Your petitioners from their unfortunate Connection have fallen
the unhappy Victims in this Contest, while the other parts of the Colony have enjoyed Peace & Tranquillity, & they humbly conceive
so heavy a Load should not fall on Individuals but be a general Charge, & trust, that you will take our distressed
Situation into Consideration, & afford us such Relief as you in your best Judgement think just & reasonable. And that
the Destruction of the latter part of the Town by Order of Convention, we hope will also be paid proper regard to, & yours

Marfolk Borough

Petition

Nov: 16th 1776

Ref^d to ~~Committee~~

Comm: on State of

The Country

June 6. 1777

has under Consideration

& come to a Resolution -
