Worcester County May 19 1777

Your Excellency & Honours

In Obedience to your order of the 6th Inst requiring the appointment of Officers to command the Militia destined for Somerset, the Field Officers of the 1st Battalion beg leave to recommend Joseph Richardson as Captain, & Ferdinand Gassoway Ensign to the Company ordered from this County. we have had a meeting of the Battalion and exerted our influence to raise and encourage the young Men to turn out, but such a backwardness prevails generally amongst us, that I am almost certain the number of the so very Cannot be got voluntarily; nothing but a draft will accomplish the design. I am sorry to observe that unless some speedy Measures are soon adopted & strictly put in execution to compell the attendance of the Militia on their usual Muster, and Battalion days, it will be to no purpose to attempt Mustering at all, since two thirds of the People remain at home, abusing and reviling the honest Few who think it their duty to attend constantly,

66 ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

In deed our Battalion is so unfortunate as to have but few Officers in it that have Abilities to learn their duty were their Dispositions sound; but too many of them as well as the People at large discover Dispositions and Behaviour Sentiments very prejudicial to our Cause. with the strongest assurance that I shall pay the strictest attention to your orders —

I have the Honour to be
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency & Honours
Most Obed: Hble Servt
William Whiteley Commanding
Offr of the Battn Militia

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