by this Company from the City Corporation were for the purpose of aiding the Company in keeping its apparatus in order and replacing such parts of the same as were worn out in protecting from fire the property of the citizens generally. And whereas since the formation of this Company in 1794, its affairs have been managed, and its disbursements made under the direction of the proper parties appointed under its Constitution and by laws, and who have ever been found faithful to the trusts thus reposed, and equal to all the wants and requirements of its organization, and therefore this Company consider so much of the ordinance as provides for the appointment of a general superintendent of repair as invidious and censorious, and not calculated either to improve the condition or add to the efficiency of the Fire Department.

Therefore be it resolved, That this Company respectfully decline the appropriation of $290. with all the conditions as per ordinance.

Resolved, That this Company recognize no other officers than such as may be appointed under the Constitution and by-laws of this Company, and the Constitution and By Laws of the Baltimore United Fire Department.

Resolved, That a copy of the above proceedings be signed by the President and Secretary, and sent to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and that the same be published in one or more of the daily papers of the city.

Charles M Keyser
President Liberty Fire Company.

James Keyser
Secretary Liberty Fire Company.

Baltimore April 8. 1844.

Which was ordered to be printed on the journal.

The following was received, returning Bill No 54.

Mayors Office
Baltimore April 10th 1844

To the First and Second Branches
of the City Council.

Gentlemen,

The bill entitled, an ordinance in relation to appropriations for Fire Companies in the city of Baltimore, has received from me the most careful consideration, I regret to be compelled

at this late stage of your session to exercise the power given me by the Charter of the city, of withholding my assent, and in returning this bill without my approval, I beg leave to assure the councils that it is done after the most deliberate reflection, and under the full conviction that some of the provisions of the ordinance are calculated to produce and keep alive animosity and ill feeling among the Fire Companies, which I know it is the desire of the Councils to allay.

As you have determined to adjourn this afternoon time will not permit me to give my objections to the bill at length, I will therefore content myself with briefly stating them

The first general objection, and the one that has operated upon my mind with more force than any other, is to those sections of the ordinance calling for the appointment of a superintendent of fire appropriations and defining his duties, In the first place, a too liberal sum is appropriated for the value of the services the superintendent would be called upon to render under the bill, and if required to perform other duties as the bill contemplates then the salary is insufficient to secure the services of a competent person who would be willing to devote his whole time to the corporation,

The sections also convey an imputation upon the officers of the Fire Companies, that previous appropriations have been misapplied an imputation I am certain the Councils never contemplated making, but which is fairly inferreable from the nature of the duties given to the superintendent by the bill, And when it is recollected that no annual appropriation can be drawn from the treasury until they have exhibited vouchers showing that the amount has been expended in repairs of their apparatus, the inference is rendered doubly strong. I have full confidence in those who have charge of our Fire Companies, that all appropriations made to them are strictly applied to the purposes for which they are granted.

The second general objection is to those sections requiring a transfer of their property to the city, It is my opinion asking too great a surrender for very small consideration, In some cases companies are asked in consideration of an annual appropriation of $150, and a small special appropriation, to make over to the city, property worth some thousands of dollars, property too acquired not from the means of the corporation but raised by private contributions, If the corporation