Monday February 12th 1816

Agreeably to the act of incorporation, the second branch of the City Council met this twelfth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Present Henry Payson Esqr. Prest. and all the members, except Mr Biays.

A message was sent to the first branch informing them that this branch had formed a quorum, and proposing the appointment of a joint Committee to wait upon the Mayor and inform him that the City Council were in session and ready to receive from him any communications he might think proper to make, and nominating on the part of this branch Mr Hollins; to which that branch agreed and so informed this, and appointed on their part Messrs Sheppard and Warner.

Mr Hollins from the joint Committee delivers the following communication from the Mayor; which was read.

Gentlemen of the City Council

Intending to avail myself of the opportunity afforded me by the annual communication which duty requires of me, of announcing through you to my fellow Citizens, my determination of retiring from the office of Mayor at the expiration of

the term with which their kind confidence has honored me for the last eight years, I cannot more forcibly express my gratitude than by endeavouring to point out a defect in the charter of incorporation which, unless remedied, will ever prevent the Mayor of this City from discharging the arduous and important duties of the office, to his own satisfaction, or with the entire approbation of his fellow Citizens.

In every well regulated community, of the extent to which the City of Baltimore has now attained, it is essential, not only that proper ordinances should be enacted, but that the penalties for a breach or violation thereof, should be rigidly and impartially enforced; and that competent and accountable officers, especially charged with the execution thereof, should be appointed, amenable and removable at pleasure, for neglect of duty. Without a compliance on the part of the peace officers, many of our most important and useful regulations will ever remain a dead letter in our statute book, as few of our fellow citizens will incur the odium attached to the invidious character of an informer.

It has often been to me the source of serious and unavailing regret, in having been informed of assemblages of boys and other disorderly characters (frequently on the sabbath) being engaged in frivolous and sometimes wicked amusements, to the great annoyance of the well disposed part of the community. In the present state of the powers of our police, it is an evil without a remedy; and as there is at present no prospect of obtaining