Extra Session

Monday, August 13th 1849

The Second Branch of the City Council assembled in their chamber this day, in pursuance of a special call from the Mayor, when were present.

Wm A Hack Esq President, and all the members except Mr Kelso.

On motion of Mr Shaffer, the following message was sent to the First Branch, which was concurred in, and Messrs Leloup and Hindes appointed on the part of the First Branch:

In Second Branch, Baltimore August 13th 1849

Gentlemen of the First Branch:

We respectfully inform you that we have organised, and propose with your concurrence a joint committee to wait on the Mayor, and inform him thereof, and are ready to receive any communication he has to make.— We have appointed on said committee on the part of this branch, Messers Shaffer and Ware.

By order

Jno A Thompson, Clerk

Mr Shaffer, from the committee to wait on the Mayor, reported that the committee had performed the duty assigned them and the Mayor, would communicate with the council forthwith.

The following communication was received from the Mayor, by the hand of V H Kalkman secretary to the mayoralty and read;

Mayor's Office Baltimore August 13th 1849

To the members of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

I have thought it proper at this time to convene you for the purpose of inviting your further aid and co-operation in preserving the health of the city, which under the Providence of God, has been wonderfully maintained.

The board of health have been zealously engaged in applying the means heretofore authorised by your honorable body, and I think the public are impressed with the belief that the expenditures by that department have been

made judiciously, and with commendable promptitude. The efforts which have so far been succesfully made, can only be continued by the liberality of the council being extended to sustain the system which has been adopted by the board. The contractors for cleaning the streets are held strictly to the performance of their contracts, and the cleanliness which generally prevails throughout the city, furnishes the best proof of the fulfilment of their duties.

The demand for a further appropriation is cheifly owing to the necessity of the removal of certain nuisances at the public expense, which exist in cellers, yards and lots, when the owners of the property are unable to defray the expense, and which do not fall under the provisions of the ordinances for cleaning streets. Even if there exists a legal mode of obtaining ultimate reimbursement, the necessity of immediate action requires funds to be at the disposal of the board.

The sanatary committees of the city have in obedience to the sentiments of their respective wards, recommended the propriety of the call of the council at this time, and I have no doubt, that suggestions will be made by intelligent citizens, whose information is entitled to respect and consideration, to the council through the several members, which may be the basis of useful legislation.

The passage of an ordinance requiring the removal of all pig and hog styes, as well as the prohibition of swine to run at large in the city, would, in my judgement, lead to the most beneficial results, and be sanctioned by the approval of a vast majority of the people.

I would earnestly recommend to your consideration, the propriety of prohibiting the sale of watermelons in the city, until such time as by public notification, the board of health may indicate their opinion, that the health of the city no longer requires the enforcement of said regulation.

Very respectfully
Elijah Stansbury, Mayor.

The following message was received from the First Branch, read and concurred in, and the First Branch informed thereof by message:

In First Branch, Baltimore, August 13th 1849

Gentlemen of the Second Branch.

We respectfully propose, with your assent, that so much of the Mayors communication as relates to the health of the city, be referred to the joint committee on health,— and so much as