



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

M-NCPPC 19-02
May 1, 2019

RESOLUTION

**IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP AND NEAL KUMAR KATYAL
FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE**

WHEREAS, as an agency of the State of Maryland, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“Commission”) is a curator and conservator of historic community resources within the territorial boundaries of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District established under the Laws of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is the public steward of an historic resource of significance to the community commonly known as the Bladensburg Peace Cross monument (the “Peace Cross”) situated within both said districts in Bladensburg, Prince George’s County, Maryland;

WHEREAS, the Peace Cross was conceived in 1919 when a group of bereaved mothers and other residents of the county formed the Prince George’s County Memorial Committee for the purpose of honoring the 49 residents of the county who died in World War I;

WHEREAS, the American Legion completed the Peace Cross in 1925 and dedicated it to honoring the “men of Prince George’s County” who perished in the Great War and “fought for the sacred right of all to live in peace and security”;

WHEREAS, from its inception and up through the present day, the Peace Cross has consistently been used by the local community as the site of patriotic events to honor the Nation’s veterans;

WHEREAS, an advocacy group and handful of individuals sued the Commission seeking to remove, dismantle or disrupt the Commission’s stewardship of the Peace Cross, among other things;

WHEREAS, the Commission sought legal consultation from Hogan Lovells US LLP, a firm with roots dating to the late Nineteenth Century, and which has extensive experience in constitutional law and complex appellate litigation, among many other disciplines;

WHEREAS, Hogan Lovells partner Neal Kumar Katyal, a former Acting Solicitor General of the United States who has had more than three dozen career appearances before the United States Supreme Court, assumed oversight of the Commission's litigation;

WHEREAS, Hogan Lovells and Neal Katyal have imparted exemplary wisdom and have demonstrated great competence and capabilities regarding their handling of this Peace Cross matter;

WHEREAS, Hogan Lovells and Neal Katyal have conferred a remarkable benefit in service to the residents of Prince George's County, the said Regional District and Metropolitan District, as well as the public more generally; and

WHEREAS, as a body corporate and politic of the State of Maryland, the Commission desires to express to Hogan Lovells and Neal Katyal the body's enduring gratitude for the act of public service in undertaking the legal representation of the agency before the Supreme Court of the United States in the matter of *Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission v. American Humanist Association et al.*, No. 18-18, October Term 2018, on Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission formally recognizes and acknowledges the exemplary efforts of Hogan Lovells and Neal Katyal, and confers this resolution to memorialize the enduring gratitude and appreciation of the agency for those efforts.

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 19-02 adopted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on motion of Commissioner Geraldo, seconded by Commissioner Fani-Gonzalez, with Chair Hewlett, Vice-Chair Anderson, Commissioners Bailey, Cichy, Dreyfuss, Doerner, Fani-Gonzalez, Geraldo and Patterson voting in favor of the motion, with Commissioner Washington being absent from the meeting held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Administration Office Auditorium in Riverdale, Maryland.


Anju A. Bennett
Acting Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

M-NCPPC Legal Department
Date: 5/14/19