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**RESOLUTION 21-287**

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**Resolution In Support of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail**

WHEREAS approximately 3,500 American and 5,000 French troops marched from New England to Virginia in 1781 for a major battle against the British Army at Yorktown, with the intention of achieving American independence from the British Crown during the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS the American Continental Army which marched to Yorktown represented a diverse America, consisting of White, Black, and Indigenous troops, united by the idea that all persons are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS the march was followed by the successful siege and battle at Yorktown, Virginia, leading to the surrender of British troops on October 19, 1781, and made inevitable victory and independence for the American colonies; and

WHEREAS Federal legislation in 2009 established the 680-mile route taken to Yorktown by American and French troops as the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail, in tribute to the commanding officer of the American troops, General George Washington, and the commanding officer of the French troops, Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau; and

WHEREAS the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail depends on public roadways that pass through a dozen large and diverse "founding cities" in need of greater access to clean air and water, outdoor recreation, and investments in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail also passes through unique historic communities, rural and agricultural areas, and over scenic byways; and

WHEREAS Princeton, New Jersey is one of the communities on this historic route, where on August 30 to 31, 1781 our residents witnessed the passing of American and French troops on route to Yorktown for victory in the American Revolution via Mount Lucas Road, Witherspoon Street, and Nassau Street; and

WHEREAS the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail is both a national and local asset with the potential to increase civic education and pride, tourism, and economic development;

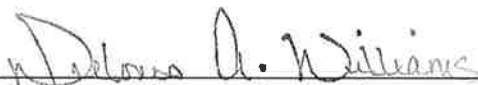
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Princeton Council calls on the President and US Congress to increase funding within the National Park Service to develop the trail through research, planning, and interpretative signage, public art, and visitor centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Princeton Council requests Federal, State, and County transportation officials prioritize Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail for infrastructure and public amenity spending, appropriate to the location, including pocket parks, historic preservation, greenways, street lighting and electric vehicle charging stations; redesign as "complete streets" accessible to motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and wheelchairs; and repair and reconstruction of critical infrastructure; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Princeton Council requests that the Princeton Planning Board incorporate the Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail in its Master Plan and establish it as a priority for preservation as a historic and tourism asset of Princeton.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X			X			
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X	X		X			
Ms. Sacks		X			X			
Mr. Williamson		X		X	X			
Mayor Freda		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held August 23, 2021.

  
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 Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk