



**City of Wilmington**  
Wilmington City Council

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March 17, 2023

**VIA EMAIL**

Honorable Senator Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senate  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Senators and Representative:

We are writing to encourage you to support legislation requesting action on a post humous exoneration of Mr. Marcus M. Garvey, should you have the opportunity to do so, in current or future congressional sessions.

Mr. Garvey's legacy as a leader in the movement for Black economic empowerment and founding father of Pan-Africanism lives on, despite his death in 1940. In 1923, Mr. Garvey, was convicted of a single charge of defrauding an investor of \$25. For this crime, he was sentenced to five years in prison and a fine of \$1,000, while the other three defendants were acquitted. In response to public outcry, President Calvin Coolidge commuted Mr. Garvey's sentence in 1927, and he was deported to his home country, Jamaica.

The lack of an exoneration for Mr. Garvey remains salient even in the present. According to the congressional record, House Resolutions calling for his exoneration have been introduced since at least the 98th Congress (1983-1984). In this current session, Representative Yvette D. Clarke, along with 23 cosponsors, has put forward H. Res. 133 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Marcus Garvey. This resolution has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Among Mr. Garvey's accomplishments, he championed international diplomacy and cooperation; promoted investment and job growth in the Black community through his initiatives like the Negro Factories Corporation

and the Black Star Line; elevated the voices of Black journalists and intellectuals, while also highlighting social issues in Black communities with his newspaper, Negro World; and reinforced appreciation for the contributions of individuals of African descent throughout the world.

While Mr. Garvey's contributions to the United States have been recognized by numerous members of Congress, he has yet to have his name and reputation restored through exoneration. As our country works diligently towards the goal of "justice for all," we ask that you also uphold those values in the case of Mr. Marcus M. Garvey for the sake of his descendants and those individuals who are working to keep his memory alive.

Sincerely,

Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II  
President  
Wilmington City Council

Vincent M. White  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
Wilmington City Council

Shané N. Darby  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Wilmington City Council

Zanthia Oliver  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Wilmington City Council

Michelle Harlee  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
Wilmington City Council

Christofer C. Johnson  
7<sup>th</sup> District  
Wilmington City Council

Maria D. Cabrera  
At-Large  
Wilmington City Council

James Spadola  
At-Large  
Wilmington City Council

Latisha Bracy  
At-Large  
Wilmington City Council

Attachment

Cc: Mona Parikh, Council Chief of Staff (via email)  
Marchelle Basnight, Senior Legislative Advisor & Chief Financial Officer (via email)  
Kendra Brumfield-NaWangna, Legislative and Policy Analyst (via email)

