



**TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 01-2026**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT TO ADOPT THE NORTHERN MAP TURTLE (*Graptemys geographica*), A MARYLAND STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES, AS THE OFFICIAL TOWN REPTILE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Port Deposit is a historic waterfront community located along the Susquehanna River, and the river and its natural resources are central to the Town's heritage, identity, environmental stewardship, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Map Turtle is a native freshwater turtle species closely associate with the Susquehanna River that is listed as a State endangered species in Maryland, and its continued survival depends upon healthy river ecosystems, clean water, protection of basking and nesting habitat, and responsible conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, the Town previously designated a Northern Map Turtle named "Rhonda the Turtle," as the Official Town Mascot in 2014, and is committed to continuing to support the research and conservation efforts of Towson University for the endangered Northern Map Turtle at the Port Deposit Visitor Center and Towson University Research and Education Center in Marina Park;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to formally adopt the Northern Map Turtle as the Official Town Reptile, further reinforcing the Town's commitment to conservation, education, community identity, and stewardship of the Susquehanna River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Port Deposit, Maryland, hereby designate the Northern Map Turtle as the Official Reptile of the Town of Port Deposit fostering civic pride that strengthens community identity, and supports educational efforts related to Port Deposit's river ecology and environmental stewardship through its partnership with Towson University;

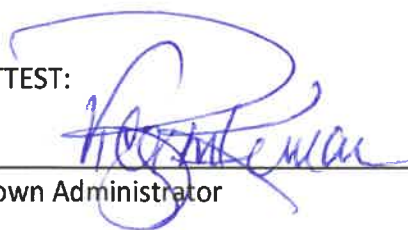
AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town staff are authorized to incorporate the Official Town Reptile designation into appropriate Town communications, educational materials, signage, programming, and community events.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Port Deposit, Maryland at a regular Town Council meeting and effective on this 6th day of January, 2026.

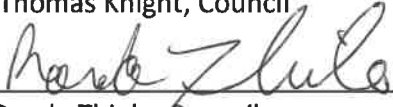
MAYOR AND COUNCIL of the TOWN of PORT DEPOSIT, MARYLAND


Wayne Tome, Jr., Mayor


Kevin Brown, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST: 
Town Administrator


Daniel Berlin, Council

Thomas Knight, Council

Randa Thiele, Council