

We the Subscribers Members of the Society of People called Quakers
having received the inland Direction to take upon us the Charge of
the City Watch, Take the Freedom of laying before the Commandant
the following Representations thereon

We acknowledge with Thankfulness, the Protection we, as a People have received
from the British Government, and the Indulgence we have experienced from
the Rulers here in Matters relative to our peaceable and religious Profession;
and we are desirous that Government should believe that we are disposed to
perform the Common Offices of Civil Society, and bear its proportionate Burdens
so far as the same may be consistent with our Religious Principles, and the
peaceable Testimony we have ever borne. We are led to believe the inland
Direction was not considered in its Nature and Tendency to affect our religious
Testimony; or it would not have been issued - with all due Respect to the
Commandant we shall mention the ground of our Objections to it - In
charging our Society with the whole Duties of the City Watch, at this
peculiar Time, when military Works and Labour are carried on by the Rest
of our fellow-Citizens who at other Times share with us in Common
the Business of the Watch, appears to us if accepted to be in Substance
"a Composition in Lieu of Military Service" we cannot in Conscience
support or contribute directly or indirectly to the Practice or Business
of War - Our peaceable Principles also render the Business of a Watch
kept altogether by ourselves, attended with Inconveniences, and perhaps so many
that its End might be frustrated - Riotous and ill-disposed People would be
under small Restraint from Persons who cannot submit even to
Bodily Defence, and who would therefore more likely meet with Injustice
and Abuse themselves than be able to controul Boisterous and unruly Men
The Number of our Members also would render this Undertaking
greatly inadequate to the Purpose intended - The whole Number of Males
who are Members of our Society, and arrived at a suitable Age do not
exceed Fifty Eight - We cannot but think therefore that the Commandant
must have misapprehended the Number of Males who compose the
Society in this City

We therefore confide in the Justice and Tenderness of our Rulers
for that Indulgence which we only ask for Conscience sake

We

We are Willing and desirous when call'd to the Watch as a
Civil Duty in Common with our Fellow Citizens to comply
with so reasonable a Requisition, and those of us who have
hitherto been exempted from performing that Service will cheerfully
send Substitutes if required -- We are with Respect Thy Friends

New York 3rd moth 19th 1782.

John Burling ✓

Saml. Brown ✓

Tho. Dobson ✓

Joseph Delaplaine ✓

Robt Murray ✓

Henry Haydock ✓

Daniel Brown ✓

Oliver Hull ✓

Isaac Underhill ✓

John Lawrence ✓

William Cooper ✓

Tho. Pursall ✓

Jacob Watson ✓

Charles Brooke ✓

James Parsons ✓

Ebenzer Haultand ✓

Lindley Murray ✓