

### **1742. Legal Responses to the Slave Rebellion Scare**

Source: Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York, 1742, vol.V, 59.

#### **A. Law to Restrain Negros From Going to Fetch Water on A Sunday Other Than to the Next Well or Pump to Their place of Abode and Riding Horses Thro the Streets or out of Town on a Sunday.**

Be It Ordained by the Mayor: aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York: Convened in Common Council And by the Authority of the same: That no Negro Molatto or Indian Slave: within this City after the Publication hereof: Shall on any Lords Day or Sunday Presume to fetch any water: other than from the Next well or pump: the place of their Abode or Shall Presume to Ride any Horse: thro any of the Streets: of this City: or on the Common: Every Slave So Offending Shall be Whipt at the Publick Whipping Post: at the Discretion of any one justice of the Peace: Not Exceeding forty Lashes: Unless the Master: Mistress: or Owner: of Such Slave So offending: pay the sum of Three Shillings: for the Use of the Person Informing to Excuse the Same.

#### **B. Paying for Executions**

Source: Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York, October 22, 1742, vol.V, 67.

A Petition of this Board to the Generall Assembly Praying that the Negroes: Executed. for the Late Conspiracy: may be paid for out of the Revenue: was produced to this Board by the D: Clerke which was Read And Approved: off and Order'd that the Dep: Clerke affix the Seal of this Corporation thereto and Sign the same by Order of this Court and that he Desire Coll. Moore to present the Same to the Generall Assembly in the Name of this Corporation.

#### **C. Law for Appointing: Establishing and Regulating a Good and Sufficient Night Watch in the City of New York.**

Source: Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York, 1742, vol.V, 77.

Whereas there now is: and of Late years: hath been: by Reason of Great Numbers of people Coming into this City from all parts: Some whereof are Suspected to be Convict ffelons: Transported from Great Britain: and Ireland: And to prevent the Conspiracy Insurrection or plotting of Negro's & other Slaves great Necessity of A Strong and Sufficient Night Watch: to be Kept Every Night within this City: for the Safety: Security and peace of the Said City and the Good Inhabitants thereof: The Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Assistants in Common Council Assembled taking the premisses into their Serious Consideration Do Ordaine And Be It Ordained by the Said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Assistants of the City of New York in this Common Council Convened: And it is hereby ordained by the Authority of the Same that all and Every person & persons which do dwell: Occupy or Inhabit in any house or houses within this City in the Six wards thereof on the South Side of the fresh Water: being persons able and fitt to Watch: or to find an Able and fit person to Watch for him: her: or them or in his: her or their Stead: do and Ought by Reason of Such Dwelling Occupation and habitation to Keep Watch within the Said City for the Preservation of the Kings peace and for the Arresting and Apprehending of all Night Walkers: Malefactors and Suspected persons And for Apprehending Negros and other Slaves and for preventing the Conspiracy and Insurrection of them within this City and the Liberties thereof.