



County of Lancaster

Office of the Commissioners

County Commissioners

Ray D'Agostino, Chairman

Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman

Alice Yoder, Commissioner

April 28, 2026

Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
331-345 Locust Street
Columbia, PA 17512

Dear Members of the Board:

As it is always in the interest of the County of Lancaster to remember our proud history and advance the cause of freedom, we are pleased to offer our support for the proposed Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

Lancaster County carries a distinction few places in America can claim: It was home to some of the most consequential Underground Railroad activity in the nation. The borough of Columbia, on the Susquehanna River, served for decades as a primary crossing point for freedom seekers entering the North, sustained by a network of African American leaders, Quaker abolitionists, and ordinary Lancaster County citizens who put their lives and livelihoods at risk. A museum dedicated to this history, located in the county where that history was made, is a project the Board of Commissioners is proud to endorse.

The project is well-conceived. It is one of three major Underground Railroad destinations taking shape within a 20-mile radius of Columbia, and its plans include an initiative to identify and connect more than 300 UGRR sites across Pennsylvania. The anticipated economic impact — 25,000 or more annual visitors and a projected multi-million dollar impact in annual regional economic activity — represents a meaningful return on the investment being sought from philanthropists, foundations, and government partners.

Lancaster County government takes seriously its responsibility to support institutions that advance the public good — educationally, culturally, and economically. The Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania has the potential to advance all three. We commend this project to the attention of those in a position to support it, and we look forward to its opening as a lasting asset for our county and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Ray D'Agostino, Chairman
County Commissioner

Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman
County Commissioner

Alice Yoder
County Commissioner