

**DOCUMENT 22 – PETITION RELATING TO THE ARREST OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE**

**March 1, 1852**

**TRANSCRIPTION**

To the Hon<sup>l</sup> Mayor and Common Council  
of the City of Chicago

Your Petitioner, would respectfully ask  
of your Hon<sup>l</sup> Body, to be released from the payment of  
a certain Fine, imposed upon him in November last

The particulars, of which is as follows, That during  
the excitement of the arrest of the Fugitive Slave, last Fall,  
your Petitioner, was in the Street, looking on at the confusion  
of the crowd, the Same as many others, And while so  
Standing, quietly and peaceable, He was ordered by the  
City Marshall, and an officer of the Police, To assist  
in arresting a certain noisy, unruly person, who was  
trying, to excite the crowd to Violence, I obeyed the order  
of the officers, and did assist in taking this person  
to the Watch House, And for so doing, I was complain-  
-ed of, and Suit brought against me, by the person so  
arrested, and by an array of witnesses, who Swore  
direct false, to the facts of the case, I was fined  
\$12,50 and costs, which fine, your Petitioner would  
respectfully Say, He is utterly unable to pay, as the  
compensation for his daily Labor, is barely Sufficient  
now to Support himself and family, and Knowing  
no Honorable way, he can pay the fine,

He very respectfully asks of your Honorable Body,  
to be released from the payment thereof

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

William Taylor

Chicago March 1. 1852