

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0300R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Stokes, Cole, D’Adamo, President Young,
Councilmembers Kraft, Curran, Henry, Middleton, Conaway, Holton, Welch, Reisinger,
Branch, Clarke
Introduced and adopted: June 13, 2011

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Gilad Schalit, Citizen of Baltimore City, Maryland

FOR the purpose of naming Gilad Schalit an honorary citizen of the City of Baltimore, formally protesting his prolonged, inhumane, and isolated imprisonment by agents of Hamas, and urgently calling for his immediate and safe return to his family and his homeland.

Recitals

Saturday, June 25, 2011, will mark the 5th anniversary of the kidnaping of Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit by Hamas, in a cross-border raid. Since his capture on June 25, 2006, Schalit has been held hostage in an unknown location in the Gaza Strip, allowed no communication with his family, nor visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross to ensure his humane treatment at the hands of his captors.

Baltimore City joins Paris, France; Rome Italy; Miami, Florida; and New Orleans, Louisiana in embracing Gilad Schalit as an honorary citizen, in hopes of sustaining a campaign of international solidarity to bring attention to his plight and to hasten his release. In making Gilad an honorary citizen, the Mayor of Rome called upon all the capitals of Europe to do likewise, stating: “We must bolster the message and fight towards one goal, bringing Gilad safe and well to his family.”

The City Council of New Orleans issued a proclamation on the 3rd anniversary of his kidnaping, noting that: “Gilad’s story is a symbol of the human element of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and must not be minimized as the global community strives to achieve peace in the Middle East.”

In an address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference on May 22, 2011, the President of the United States once again called on Hamas to release Gilad Schalit, who has been kept from his family for five long years. He also noted that the Talmud teaches us that, “So long as a person still has life, they should never abandon faith.”

In adopting this Resolution, the Council is sending a message of hope and faith that our fellow citizen, Gilad Schalit, will soon be free and safe in the warm embrace of his family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That this Body hereby names Gilad Schalit an honorary citizen of the City of Baltimore, formally protests his prolonged, inhumane, and isolated imprisonment by agents of Hamas, and urgently calls for his immediate and safe return to his family and his homeland.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the family of Gilad
2 Schalit, the Mayor, the Baltimore Zionist District c/o Fran Sonnerschien, and the Mayor's
3 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.