

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0101R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Middleton, Henry,
Curran, Spector, Branch, Young, Conaway, Holton, Welch, Kraft, Reisinger, Clarke
Introduced and adopted: January 12, 2009

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

In Support of National Mentoring Month

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2 FOR the purpose of expressing support for National Mentoring Month and the focus of national
3 attention on the need for mentors; recognizing the selfless contributions of mentors from
4 Baltimore City’s businesses, government agencies, churches, schools, nonprofits, as well as
5 individual volunteers; and calling all members of the Baltimore community to volunteer their
6 time and expertise as mentors to those in need.

Recitals

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8 Created by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR, National Mentoring Month
9 is marking its eighth year in 2009. “By focusing national attention on the need for mentors, as
10 well as how each of us – individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith
11 communities, and nonprofits – can work together to increase the number of mentors, we assure
12 brighter futures for our young people.”

13 The Maryland Mentoring Partnership reports that during the past decade the mentoring
14 movement has gained momentum in Maryland and across the country. Enriching the lives of
15 both youth and adults, elementary, middle, and high school students are mentored through a
16 network of more than 300 programs statewide. Mentoring programs focus on helping youth
17 improve scholastically, gain valuable workplace skills, and build competence and character.
18 Research has shown that mentored youth often have better attitudes toward school and a
19 reduction in substance abuse and other negative behaviors.

20 In Baltimore City, our public school system offers a meaningful way for committed persons
21 to become mentors. The schools are seeking 500 volunteers to support the schools and students.
22 Volunteers will be matched with schools to help out in ways that match their schedules and the
23 schools’ needs - from being a positive presence around the school at dismissal, to helping out
24 within the school, or to tutor or mentor students.

25 As stated by Maryland Mentors: “Mentoring is a connection between a caring adult and a
26 young person that validates the youth and creates a safe, supportive, and positive relationship
27 where participants come together through an organized mentoring-focused program.” Instead of
28 being dismayed by Baltimore City’s low overall graduation rate, responsible citizens can take the
29 opportunity of National Mentoring Month to refocus on the best way to affect change – one
30 student at a time.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
32 Body supports National Mentoring Month and the focus of national attention on the need for

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

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1 mentors; recognizes the selfless contributions of mentors from Baltimore City's businesses,
2 government agencies, churches, schools, nonprofits, as well as individual volunteers; and calls
3 all members of the Baltimore community to volunteer their time and expertise as mentors to
4 those in need.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks,
7 the Director of Baltimore Rising, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.