

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0082R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Dixon, Councilmembers Kraft, Holton, Young, Spector,
Rawlings Blake, Reisinger, Conaway, Clarke, Branch, Curran, D’Adamo, Harris, Mitchell,
Welch

Introduced and adopted: August 15, 2005

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

September 2005 - Library Sign-Up Month

FOR the purpose of recognizing September 2005 as Library Sign-up Month in the City of
Baltimore and encouraging everyone to sign up for the smartest card, a library card.

Recitals

September is Library Sign-up Month - a time when the American Library Association and
libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply
of all. The observance was launched in 1987, to meet the challenge of then Secretary of
Education William J. Bennett who said: "Let's have a national campaign...every child should
obtain a library card - and use it." Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each
fall in a national effort to ensure that every child does just that.

Library cards are generally free to those living in the library's service area. In most cases,
borrowing privileges are granted on the spot. Some libraries may require some form of
identification, proof of residency, or the signature of a guardian.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show
that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and
are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Libraries offer books, magazines, audio- and videotapes, computers, software, and other
multimedia materials. Libraries offer a wide range of other items on loan to children and their
families, including toys, games and puzzles. Most can be borrowed for home use simply by
showing a library card. And librarians are on hand to help recommend materials suitable for
various ages and interests.

Libraries also offer a variety of programs to stimulate an interest in reading and learning.
Preschool story hours expose young children to the joy of reading, while homework centers
provide computers and assistance to older children after school. Summer reading clubs keep
children reading during school vacation and have been shown to be the most important factor in
avoiding the decrease in reading skills that educators refer to as “summer learning loss”.

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

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
2 Body hereby recognizes September 2005 as Library Sign-up Month in the City of Baltimore and
3 encourages everyone to sign up for the smartest card, a library card.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
5 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Council, and to the Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library
6 System.