

FROM

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SUBJECT	City Council Bill 12-0023R – Expanding YouthWorks into a Year Round Program

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

The Honorable, Mr. President and Members of the City Council **DATE:** March 9, 2012
Room 400, City Hall

Introduction:

Bill 12-0023R requests that the Mayor and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) support the expansion of the YouthWorks summer employment program to provide services on a year-round basis.

MOED supports funded implementation of the proposed expansion.

For nearly three decades, YouthWorks has offered thousands of Baltimore City youth between the ages of 14 and 21 their first introduction to the working world. Thousands more add vital job skills and experience to their resumes as a result of their participation in the program. The YouthWorks program has long been recognized as a model of best practices, and has received national recognition for quality and positive outcomes.

An important part of the success behind the YouthWorks program is MOED's continuous evaluation of the program's design, a practice that ensures responsiveness to changing economic and community needs. Recognizing the valuable impact work-based learning has on our young people as well as the short and long-term negative consequences associated with high youth unemployment, MOED is eager to promote the transition of summer YouthWorks jobs to year-round employment wherever it is possible. A new feature of the 2012 YouthWorks program is the intended addition of Job Coaches who will provide support and guidance to the YouthWorks employers at their job sites throughout the summer and encourage the continuation of employment for the participants into the school year.

Broadening the program's focus to promote year-round employment would help to ensure that YouthWorks becomes even more effective at helping Baltimore's youth become productive.

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