

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0062R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Branch, Middleton, D'Adamo,
Henry, Welch, Young, Reisinger, Spector, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: September 8, 2008

Assigned to: Education Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: March 16, 2009

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Public School System – Anonymous Call Hotline

2 FOR the purpose of inviting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public System, the Chief of the
3 Baltimore City School Police, and the Interim Information Chief of the Mayor’s Office of
4 Information Technology to brief the City Council on the feasibility of creating a tip phone
5 hotline, where teachers, students, and parents are able to anonymously report acts of school
6 violence, as well as a possible integration of that hotline with 311.

7 Recitals

8 Last month, representatives of the Baltimore City Public School System appeared before the
9 City Council to report on their state of readiness for the upcoming school year. During that
10 presentation, the School System presented its revised Code of Conduct. The Council applauds
11 the school system on its efforts to create a more comprehensive and uniform Code. We have
12 been also encouraged by innovative ideas such as the Success Academy and the creation of
13 group specific programming targeting our most at-risk youth, which are examples of more
14 contemporary approaches to alternative educations.

15 Furthermore, the increased inter-agency cooperation between the Baltimore City School
16 Police, the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Mass Transit Administration has been a
17 tremendous benefit to the safety of our students going to and coming home from school. All of
18 these efforts are major strides in the right direction to insure that our students are safe in and out
19 of the classroom.

20 However, in addition to these initiatives, the Council believes that the School System can
21 always use more tools to aid its efforts to make our City students and teachers safer. Therefore,
22 we are asking the City School System to brief the Council on the feasibility of creating an
23 anonymous tip hotline where both teachers and students can report threats and acts of violence.

24 For students and parents, this hotline could be an avenue to disclose vital information about
25 their safety or the safety of their peers and educators, without fear of retaliation. For teachers,
26 this hotline would be a way to report incidents and threats, so to insure the teacher’s safety as
27 well as the accuracy of the reporting.

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

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1 The City has been extraordinarily impressed with the progress made among our City's
2 students and in our schools as a whole. This hearing is meant to further the partnership that has
3 been forged between the City Council and the Baltimore City School System. With a strong
4 relationship between legislator and educator, we can help one another further the well being of
5 our City students.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the CEO
7 of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Chief of the Baltimore City School Police, and
8 the Interim Information Chief of the Mayor's Office of Information Technology brief the
9 Council on the feasibility of creating a tip phone hotline, where teachers, students, and parents
10 are able to anonymously report acts of school violence, as well as a possible integration of that
11 hotline with 311.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Chief of the Baltimore City Public School
14 Police, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Council.