


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Karen Sitnick, Director, <i>KS</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b> 
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Employment Development 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 468	
	SUBJECT	<b>Responses to City Council YouthWorks Resolutions</b>	

**TO** Angela Gibson  
City Hall

DATE: September 19, 2011

Per your request, please find enclosed my responses to the following City Council Bills related to the City's YouthWorks program:

- 11-0310R – Constant Funding Baltimore City YouthWorks
- ✓ • 11-0311R – Expanding YouthWorks into a Year-Round Program
- 11-0312R – Automating YouthWorks Registration
- 11-0313R – Establishing a Permanent Fund-raising Committee for Youth Works

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

KS/va

Attachments

cc: Kalliope Parthemos, Deputy Mayor  
Kumasi Vines, Special Assistant to Deputy Mayor  
Andrew Smullian, Legislative Director



**Resolution Title:** Informational Hearing – Expanding YouthWorks into a Year-Round Program

**Introduced by:** Councilmember Holten

**Introduced on:** August 10, 2011

**Resolution ID Code:** 11-0311R

**Response:**

Bill 11-0311R 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 eagerly supports the concept of providing a year-round employment program for Baltimore City youth should funding be secured to support this initiative.

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 like those we now face. Our nation continues to struggle under a deep recession that has taken a particularly high toll on urban areas, with Baltimore experiencing a bleak 30% unemployment rate among its youth.

The immediate and long-term negative impact of high youth unemployment is well known. A year-round YouthWorks program can combat such consequences by offering employment to youth who might otherwise become involved in non-productive and potentially dangerous activities. Additionally, research has demonstrated that youth who are engaged in employment early and often are more likely to be employed - and employed at higher wages - over the span of their work life.

Broadening the program's focus to provide a paid work experience beyond the summer months would expand the positive impact YouthWorks has on preparing Baltimore's youth to become productive and successful members of the city's workforce for years to come.

MOED is eager to work with the Mayor and City Council to explore ways to secure sustainable funding to support an expanded program as well as the commitment of an adequate number of employers—both public and private—to provide meaningful work experiences for city youth.

