

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0083R
(Resolution)**

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

At the request of: NAACP Baltimore City Branch of the and the Philadelphia Joint Board of
UNITEHERE!

Address: c/o Marvin L. “Doc” Cheatham, President, NAACP Baltimore City Branch, 8 W. 26th
Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Telephone: 410-366-3300

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2008

Assigned to: Labor Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association,
Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **In Support of B-More United**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing support for the B-More United Campaign of the cooks,
4 housekeepers, servers, and banquet staff at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel and
5 their boycott of the hotel in demand of adequate rights, job security, decent wages, affordable
6 health care, and a pension plan.

7 **Recitals**

8 The unionized employees at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center hotel are employed by the
9 Columbia Sussex Corporation. Since March 2006, the cooks, housekeepers, servers, and
10 banquet staff have been trying to negotiate affordable healthcare benefits, safer workloads, job
11 security, and retirement benefits. They have been working without a union contract since April
12 2006.

13 The Columbia Sussex Corporation, the ownership company of the Sheraton Baltimore City
14 Center Hotel, has unilaterally implemented their final offer to the employees. As a result, there
15 has been a reduction in benefits, a reduction in compensation for banquet employees, an increase
16 in workload for housekeepers, non-recognition of seniority rights for scheduling, and significant
17 reductions in workers’ rights on the jobs.

18 An overwhelming majority of workers at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel called for
19 a boycott of their own hotel in November 2007 – “By standing together, we are sending a
20 message to Columbia Sussex and the rest of the hotel industry: We are determined to make our
21 jobs decent jobs. We are determined to support our families here in Baltimore”. The boycott is
22 endorsed by the Baltimore AFL-CIO, the Maryland and DC AFL-CIO, the Baltimore City
23 Branch of the NAACP, and many other organizations that advocate for working families in
24 Maryland.

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

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1 The City Council supports the employees of the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel and
2 encourages individuals and businesses to support the boycott until such time as the contract is
3 settled to the workers' satisfaction.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
5 Body supports the B-More United Campaign of the cooks, housekeepers, servers, and banquet
6 staff at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel and their boycott of the hotel in demand of
7 adequate rights, job security, decent wages, affordable health care, and a pension plan.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 President, NAACP Baltimore City Branch, the Coordinator, Hotel Development, Strategic
10 Affairs Department, UNITEHERE!, the Executive Director of the Convention Center, the CEO
11 and President of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association, the Director of the
12 Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City
13 Council.