

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0192R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Young, President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Curran,
Kraft, Holton, Harris, Mitchell, Clarke, Conaway, Branch

Introduced and read first time: June 12, 2006

Assigned to: Committee of the Whole

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department, Youth Commission, Office of
Employment Development

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Gang Awareness Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Chief of the Criminal
4 Intelligence Unit of the Baltimore Police Department, and the Chair of the Youth Council –
5 Workforce Investment Board (BWIB) of the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development to
6 brief the Council on the growing problem of gang activity in Baltimore City and the
7 surrounding counties.

8 **Recitals**

9 In January 2005, recognizing the growing problem of gang-related violence in Baltimore
10 City, the Youth Council of BWIB invited the Police Department to make a presentation about
11 the proliferation of gangs in this area. This information, regarding the magnitude of the problem,
12 including the emergence of female middle-school factions, compelled the Baltimore Workforce
13 Investment Board Youth Council to form the Gang Ad Hoc Committee.

14 The Gang Ad Hoc Committee sought a comprehensive understanding of the problem of
15 gangs in our communities, the impact on the overall mission of the Youth Council, and the
16 prognosis of the impact of gang activity on the standard of living in affected Baltimore City
17 neighborhoods. By highlighting the problem of gangs and gang-related violence, the Youth
18 Council sought to raise public awareness about this serious impediment to the welfare of youth
19 and to develop strategies to guide the development of gang prevention, intervention, and
20 suppression protocols.

21 Although gang activity in Baltimore City has historically been attributed to local “crews”,
22 made up mostly of drug dealers who typically named their organizations after their
23 neighborhoods or streets, by May of this year, police officials acknowledged that the members of
24 these same organizations were beginning to identify themselves as members of well-known
25 gangs. It was believed that these were incidents of local “crew” members – “North Avenue
26 Boys”, “Hot Boy”, “Project Boy”, “Milton and Biddle” – trying to boost their street credibility
27 by falsely affiliating themselves with nationally know gangs such as the “Bloods” and “Crips”
28 without any official recognition by these criminal enterprises.

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

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1 The June 1, 2006, an anti-drug summit of some 300 law enforcement officers, political
2 leaders, and educators, hosted by federal prosecutors in Columbia, Maryland, was organized to
3 coordinate efforts by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to prosecute criminal
4 gang members and to share information with strategies with educators, community organizers,
5 religious leaders, parents, and others in a position to help prevent gangs from recruiting new
6 members, encouraging current members to quit, and to put their leaders behind bars.

7 The consensus of summit presenters was that the State’s most serious gang problem is not
8 local “crews” – it is the “Bloods” who crop up on Baltimore street corners, in the schools of
9 Harford County, and in prisons throughout the State. The vice chair of the Mid-Atlantic
10 Regional Gang Investigators Network reported that there are at least 100 gangs in Maryland that
11 range in size from 3 to 100 members. The Chief of the Baltimore Police Department’s criminal
12 intelligence unit reportedly stated that national gangs have arrived in large numbers in Baltimore
13 in the past 10 months. Between 1999 and 2005, the City had a single “Bloods” and “Crips” set.
14 Today there are 14 “Bloods” and 5 “Crips” sets.

15 Experts stress that intelligence gathered by law enforcement officials shows an ever-
16 changing picture of gang activity in Maryland. Gang violence has grown, despite the reluctance
17 of some law enforcement personnel and elected officials to acknowledge the crisis ahead. In
18 order to successfully combat the deadly influence of gangs on our young people and our
19 communities, we must acknowledge the full scope of the problem and ensure that those
20 responsible for our safety are doing the same.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
22 Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Chief of the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the Baltimore
23 Police Department, and the Chair of the Youth Council – Workforce Investment Board (BWIB)
24 of the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development are invited to brief the Council on the growing
25 problem of gang activity in Baltimore City and the surrounding counties.

26 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
27 Chief of the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chair of the
28 Youth Council – Workforce Investment Board (BWIB) of the Mayor’s Office of Workforce
29 Development, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.