

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0184R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Scott, Henry, Middleton, Holton, Welch, Reisinger,
Stokes, Branch, Clarke, Curran, President Young
Introduced and adopted: September 8, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

“Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner”

FOR the purpose of supporting the use of “Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner” as the official slogan of Baltimore City in order to celebrate Baltimore’s essential link to our national anthem.

Recitals

Our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, is sung and celebrated times too numerous to count daily across the United States, and around the world. Surveys indicate however that only about 20% of Baltimore City residents know that Baltimore is the birthplace of the “The Star-Spangled Banner” and that percentage is much lower in Maryland’s Counties, let alone outside the state of Maryland.

The Baltimore City Historical Society, collaborating with the Friends of Ft. McHenry in cooperation with the Baltimore National Heritage Area, has established “The Anthem Project”. After the important commemoration of the War of 1812 and National Anthem Bicentennial Celebration in September 2014 organized by Maryland’s Star-Spangled 200 Commission, it will continue the needed public education about the writing of our national anthem at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore.

“The Anthem Project” has created an educational poster to place in every school in Maryland. It has established an educational display in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. These are initial steps. For the project to create the identity it needs, for the city, the state, and the nation to be truly educated about the Anthem, the City of Baltimore needs to adopt “Baltimore – Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner” as the City’s official slogan.

The American flag is a national and international icon with a unique tie to Baltimore. The “Star-Spangled Banner” celebrates that flag somewhere around the world almost every minute of every day. It was born here and we should say so proudly and emphatically. Emphasizing Baltimore’s link to our national anthem brings not only great attention but also deserved historical credit to our great City. Over time it will contribute toward rebuilding the City’s positive national image.

Recently, a nationally respected preservationist publicly commented that Baltimore “has no historical face”. This is disappointing because one of the strongest cultural and economic assets

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

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1 of Baltimore City is our historical identity. Adopting “Baltimore – Birthplace of the
2 Star-Spangled Banner” as the City’s official slogan creates that historical face – our American
3 flag, that “Star-Spangled Banner” still there over Fort McHenry, her broad stripes and white stars
4 still gallantly streaming.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
6 council supports the use of “Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner” as the official
7 slogan of Baltimore City in order to celebrate Baltimore’s essential link to our national anthem.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 Archivist of the United States, the Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 113th
10 Congress, the President of the Maryland Historical Society, the Chairman of the Baltimore City
11 Historical Society, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.