

**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

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: February 23, 2009

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

In Support of B-More United

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

Recitals

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

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

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

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