

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 24-0224R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen  
Introduced and adopted: June 24, 2024

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Honoring Carlton Ray Smith and Residents Impacted by the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

FOR the purpose of honoring the advocacy of Carlton Ray Smith and affirming the City’s commitment to relentlessly pursuing funding to provide HIV/AIDS treatment and services to those in financial need.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council expresses its deepest condolences for the loss of Carlton Ray Smith, lovingly known as “The Duchess”, who was a longtime advocate for Baltimore’s LGBTQIA+ community and those living with HIV/AIDS in particular. Carlton Ray Smith passed away on May 29, 2024 at age 61.

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the City extended protections against discrimination based on an individual’s HIV or AIDS status in regards to employment, public accommodations, education, healthcare, public welfare, and housing.

**WHEREAS**, HIV and AIDS remain diseases that disproportionately impact the LGBTQIA+ community, and same-gender loving gay men and transgender women in particular, as well as other members of Baltimore’s communities.

**WHEREAS**, federal funding from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration’s Ryan White Part B Maryland State Special Services HIV/AIDS program of the State of Maryland is being cut from \$17.9 million in fiscal year 2024 to \$5.3 million in fiscal year 2025, a 76 percent decrease.

**WHEREAS**, the Ryan White Program funds serve those people living with HIV/AIDS with the greatest economic need.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the City Council honors the advocacy of Carlton Ray Smith and affirms the City's commitment to relentlessly pursuing funding to provide HIV/AIDS treatment and services to those in financial need.

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

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1       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Wes  
2 Moore, the Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, the Baltimore City  
3 Delegation to the General Assembly, the LGBTQIA+ Caucus of the General Assembly, the  
4 Mayor, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City LGBTQ+  
5 Commission, the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, and the Mayor’s legislative liaison to the  
6 City Council.