

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0077R
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2008

Assigned to: Community Development Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Office of Employment Development, Department of
Housing and Community Development, Department of Public Works, Department of
Transportation, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Finance, Labor
Commissioner

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Baltimore City Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development,
4 the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the
5 Department of Public Works, the Director of the Department of Transportation, and the CEO
6 of Baltimore City Public Schools to form a coalition to develop a plan to create green collar
7 jobs in Baltimore City.

8 **Recitals**

9 *Green-Collar Jobs in America’s Cities: Building Pathways Out of Poverty and Careers in*
10 *the Clean Energy Economy*, a publication of the Apollo Alliance, a coalition of business, labor,
11 environmental, and community leaders working to catalyze a clean energy revolution in
12 America, reports that the American Solar Energy Society estimates that in 2006 alone, renewable
13 energy and energy efficiency were responsible for \$970 billion in industry revenues and 8.5
14 million jobs. And that, America’s growing green economy faces a looming labor shortage in
15 sectors like manufacturing, construction, and installation. In a 2005 survey by the National
16 Association of Manufacturers, 90% of the respondents indicated a moderate to severe shortage of
17 qualified, skilled production employees, like machinists and technicians. Furthermore, Tom
18 Friedman, author of best seller, *Hot Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and*
19 *How it Can Change America* asserts that “ET, energy technology, is going to be the next IT. The
20 next great industrial revolution. And [whichever city or country] dominates that economic
21 revolution, is going to have the most security, the most respect, the most competitive industry,
22 and the most healthy population.”

23 The National Renewable Energy Lab also identified a shortage of skills and training as a
24 leading barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth. Experts predict that this labor
25 shortage is only likely to get more severe as baby boomers skilled in current energy technologies
26 retire – in the power sector, alone, nearly one-quarter of the current work force will be eligible

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

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1 for retirement in the next 5 to 7 years. In response to America’s growing commitment to
2 producing clean energy, to fighting climate change, and to providing employment, Congress
3 passed the Green collar jobs Act of 2007 (GJA) that authorized \$125 million per year to create
4 an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training program.

5 The GJA took a progressive step in working to establish an initial pilot program to provide
6 direct services and funding to the states to identify needed skills, develop training programs, and
7 train workers for jobs in a range of industries – including energy efficient buildings, construction
8 and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, biofuels, and manufacturing
9 that produces sustainable products and uses sustainable processes and materials. It targets a
10 broad range of populations for eligibility, but has a special focus on creating “green pathways
11 out of poverty.”

12 *Green Collar Jobs: An Analysis of the Capacity of Green Businesses to Provide High Quality*
13 *Jobs for Men and Women with Barriers to Employment*, a case study of Berkeley, California,
14 found that the significant problems of poverty and unemployment in Berkeley and other Bay
15 Area cities create an urgent need for a new source of living wage jobs for low income residents,
16 with barriers to employment. There, as in Baltimore City, this population includes youth and
17 adults who do not have a high school degree, have been out the labor market for a long time,
18 were formally incarcerated, have limited education and/or labor market skills. The report
19 describes a category of jobs with significant potential to fill this need – *green collar jobs*.

20 Green collar jobs are blue collar jobs in green businesses – “manual labor jobs in businesses
21 whose products and services directly improve environmental quality.” The leading authority on
22 green collar jobs has identified 22 different sectors of the U.S. economy that currently provide
23 workers with green collar jobs: bicycle repair and bike delivery services; car and truck mechanic
24 jobs, production jobs, and gas-station jobs related to bio-diesel, vegetable oil and other
25 alternative fuels; energy retro-fits to increase energy efficiency and conservation; food
26 production using organic and/or sustainably grown agriculture products; furniture making from
27 environmentally certified and recycled wood; green building; green waste composting on a large
28 scale; hauling and reuse of construction and demolition materials and debris; hazardous material
29 clean up; green (sustainable) landscaping; manufacturing jobs related to large scale production of
30 a wide range of appropriate technologies; materials reuse/producing products made from
31 recycled, non-toxic materials; non-toxic household cleaning in residential and commercial
32 buildings; parks and open space maintenance and expansion; printing with non-toxic inks and
33 dyes and recycled papers; public transit jobs; recycling; solar installation and maintenance; tree
34 cutting and pruning; per-urban and urban agriculture; water retrofits to increase water efficiency
35 and conservation; and whole home performance (i.e.: HVAC, attic installation, weatherization,
36 etc.).

37 The Baltimore City Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition is charged with examining this
38 segment of the labor market, identifying the needs of businesses located in the City, developing
39 appropriate training programs, and working with the private sector, public sector, and organized
40 labor to provide Baltimore City’s unemployed or under-employed residents with gainful
41 employment opportunities.

42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
43 Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Director of the Department of
44 Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the
45 Director of the Department of Transportation, and the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools are
46 requested to form a coalition to develop a plan to create green collar jobs in Baltimore City.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Director of the Department of
3 Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the
4 Director of the Department of Transportation, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and
5 the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.