

Introduced by: Councilmember Sneed

*Henry DORSEY, Bullock, Bunsell, Pritchett*

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

*Young*

Date: April 11, 2018

*Self  
Schleiters*

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

# RESOLUTION

Committee

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

*Reisinger,  
Clarke,  
Stakes  
Cohen*

CITY COUNCIL 18-0077R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

## Supporting Public Workers' Right to Organize

FOR the purpose of supporting the freedom of all City employees to exercise their rights to a voice and dignity on the job through joining together in strong unions; and urging the Supreme Court to consider the legacy of Dr. King, the Memphis sanitation workers, and the public benefit created by workers organizing in rendering its decision in the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* case.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

*Bull*

*Robert Stokes*

*Edna*

*Henry DORSEY*

*MS*

*Margaret*

*[Large scribbled signature]*

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**



**Agencies**

_____	Baltimore City Public School System
_____	Baltimore Development Corporation
_____	City Solicitor
_____	Comptroller's Office
_____	Department of Audits
_____	Department of Finance
_____	Department of General Services
_____	Department of Housing and Community Development
_____	Department of Human Resources
_____	Department of Planning
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Department of Public Works
_____	Department of Real Estate
_____	Department of Recreation and Parks
_____	Department of Transportation
_____	Fire Department
_____	Health Department
_____	Mayor's Office of Employment Development
_____	Mayor's Office of Human Services
_____	Mayor's Office of Information Technology
_____	Office of the Mayor
_____	Police Department
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Board of Estimates
_____	Board of Ethics
_____	Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
_____	Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation
_____	Commission on Sustainability
_____	Employees' Retirement System
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Environmental Control Board
_____	Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
_____	Labor Commissioner
_____	Parking Authority Board
_____	Planning Commission
_____	Wage Commission
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____

**Boards and Commissions**

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0077R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Sneed, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Dorsey,  
Bullock, Burnett, Pinkett, Scott, Schleifer, Reisinger, Clarke, Stokes, Cohen  
Introduced and adopted: April 16, 2018

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Supporting Public Workers' Right to Organize**

FOR the purpose of supporting the freedom of all City employees to exercise their rights to a voice and dignity on the job through joining together in strong unions; and urging the Supreme Court to consider the legacy of Dr. King, the Memphis sanitation workers, and the public benefit created by workers organizing in rendering its decision in the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* case.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief that all families should have the means to thrive in safe and healthy communities.

**WHEREAS**, the working people who make our city run ought to have good jobs that can support families.

**WHEREAS**, over the last forty years, working people have become more productive than ever, yet real wages are declining and CEOs make more than ever before: 347 times more than the average person.

**WHEREAS**, 50 years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he marched and rallied in support of city sanitation workers on strike to demand their dignity, their humanity, and their union be recognized.

**WHEREAS**, those Memphis sanitation workers and Dr. King carried signs proclaiming “I AM A MAN” and struggled for basic freedoms: the freedom from discrimination, the freedom from degrading work conditions, the freedom to come together in strong unions to improve their place of work.

**WHEREAS**, still today, people across the country and in our city struggle for those same basic freedoms and a high quality of life for their families.

**WHEREAS**, being able to come together in unions gives people – particularly women and people of color – a powerful voice in speaking up for themselves, their families, and their communities, and ensures they are treated with dignity and respect at work.

**WHEREAS**, when people stick together in unions, they gain the power in numbers to raise wages and improve benefits like health care for themselves, their families, and all of our communities.

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

**Council Bill 18-0077R**

1       **WHEREAS**, people working collectively together in unions have won victories like the  
2 40-hour work week, overtime pay, and health and safety standards, as well as advanced policies  
3 especially important to women like paid leave, earned sick time, and reducing the gender pay  
4 gap.

5       **WHEREAS**, when people can negotiate together for strong contracts, higher wages, and safer,  
6 dignified working conditions, all of us benefit, our communities are stronger, and our entire  
7 economy is made more fair.

8       **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court is considering the case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* which  
9 may decide whether those who work in the public service – such as nurses, teachers, and  
10 firefighters – would be denied the freedom to come together in strong unions that make our  
11 communities safe, more equitable, and strong.

12       **WHEREAS**, the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court case will have a monumental  
13 impact on our city residents.

14       **WHEREAS**, an unfavorable decision in this case would undermine the freedom for millions of  
15 working people, especially women and communities of color, to join together in strong unions.

16       **WHEREAS**, Baltimore provides services to all of its residents because of the hard work of our  
17 neighbors who work in the public service, providing health care, educating our children, putting  
18 out fires, fixing our potholes, picking up our trash, and more.

19       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the  
20 Council supports the freedom of all City employees to exercise their rights to a voice and dignity  
21 on the job through joining together in strong unions; and urges the Supreme Court to consider the  
22 legacy of Dr. King, the Memphis sanitation workers, and the public benefit created by workers  
23 organizing in rendering its decision in the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* case.

24       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
25 Labor Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**INTRODUCTORY\***  
**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_ R**  
**(Resolution)**

APR STYLE, AND DATE AT AGENCY
TW 4.11.18
D# _____ REFERENCE

Introduced by: Councilmember Sneed

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**Supporting Public Workers' Right to Organize**

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**WHEREAS**, still today, people across the country and in our city struggle for those same basic freedoms and a high quality of life for their families.

**WHEREAS**, being able to come together in unions gives people – particularly women and people of color – a powerful voice in speaking up for themselves, their families, and their communities, and ensures they are treated with dignity and respect at work.

\* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.  
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

**WHEREAS**, when people stick together in unions, they gain the power in numbers to raise wages and improve benefits like health care for themselves, their families, and all of our communities.

**WHEREAS**, people working collectively together in unions have won victories like the 40-hour work week, overtime pay, and health and safety standards, as well as advanced policies especially important to women like paid leave, earned sick time, and reducing the gender pay gap.

**WHEREAS**, when people can negotiate together for strong contracts, higher wages, and safer, dignified working conditions, all of us benefit, our communities are stronger, and our entire economy is made more fair.

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court is considering the case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* which may decide whether those who work in the public service – such as nurses, teachers, and firefighters – would be denied the freedom to come together in strong unions that make our communities safe, more equitable, and strong.

**WHEREAS**, the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court case will have a monumental impact on our city residents.

**WHEREAS**, an unfavorable decision in this case would undermine the freedom for millions of working people, especially women and communities of color, to join together in strong unions.

**WHEREAS**, Baltimore provides services to all of its residents because of the hard work of our neighbors who work in the public service, providing health care, educating our children, putting out fires, fixing our potholes, picking up our trash, and more.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the Council supports the freedom of all City employees to exercise their rights to a voice and dignity on the job through joining together in strong unions; and urges the Supreme Court to consider the legacy of Dr. King, the Memphis sanitation workers, and the public benefit created by workers organizing in rendering its decision in the upcoming *Janus v. AFSCME* case.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Labor Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.



**ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

APR 16 2018

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ UNFAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

WITHDRAWAL \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk