CITY OF BALTIMORE COUNCIL BILL 10-0225R (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, D'Adamo, Branch, Curran, Cole, Middleton, Holton, Stokes, Clarke, President Young, Councilmembers Spector, Welch, Kraft, Reisinger, Conaway

Introduced and adopted: September 20, 2010

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A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Honoring Kenneth N. Harris, Sr. at Leith Walk Elementary School

For the purpose of calling on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and Baltimore City Public Schools to permanently memorialize the life and work of the Honorable Kenneth N. Harris, Sr. at the newly renovated Leith Walk Elementary School when work there is completed.

6 Recitals

Throughout his much too brief life, Ken Harris worked hard to uplift and improve his community in North and Northeast Baltimore. One particular focus of his efforts was the struggle to guide young people, especially the young students at Leith Walk Elementary School, onto and along the right paths in life.

As a Baltimore City Councilman, Ken always looked out for the City's most endangered and vulnerable children. He sought to keep students on the right course by championing the Baltimore Truancy Assessment Centers to counsel and provide needed social services to kids who 'skip' class. He worked to change eviction procedures to keep families and children from being thrown out onto the street with their belongings. And he consistently challenged the Police Department to be prudent in charging youths with minor offenses that could jeopardize their future jobs and education. Perhaps most importantly, he made ending the cycle of violence on our City's streets that mars the lives of so many of our young people his signature priority.

But before Ken began fighting for all of Baltimore's youth as a Councilman, he worked tirelessly to support the children of his neighborhood through his service as first a member, and later president, of the Leith Walk Parent Teacher Association. In this vital role he was an early advocate of the school's renovation and expansion.

Today, as transformative renovations are beginning at Leith Walk, it seems fitting that Ken, and his work to transform the City as a whole into a better place, be honored at the school where he first stepped forward as a public servant.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and Baltimore City Public Schools to permanently memorialize the life and work of the Honorable Kenneth N. Harris, Sr. at the newly renovated Leith Walk Elementary School when work there is completed.

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.