

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0135R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Holton, President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Curran, Kraft, Harris, Branch, Young, Mitchell, Reisinger, Rawlings Blake, Clarke, Conaway, Spector, Welch

Introduced and adopted: February 6, 2006

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

February 12th – Red Dress Sunday 2006

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2 FOR the purpose of endorsing the 2nd annual celebration of *Red Dress Sunday* in Baltimore City
3 when area churches are invited to join together to promote awareness in the African
4 American and Hispanic communities on the impact of heart disease on women in America;
5 focusing the attention of Baltimoreans on the prevalence of heart disease as the #1 killer of
6 American women; and recommitting the City Council to continue to partake in all future
7 celebrations of *Red Dress Sunday*.

8 **Recitals**

9 On Valentine’s Day, 2005, the Baltimore City Council adopted a resolution expressing
10 appreciation to St. Agnes Health Care and the Eric Davis Foundation for sponsorship of the 1st
11 annual *Red Dress Sunday* that welcomed the active participation of area churches in educating
12 the public on the devastating facts about heart disease in America where more women die from
13 the disease each year than die for strokes, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,
14 and breast cancer combined. This year’s celebration has expanded to embrace the participation
15 of 20 churches throughout the Baltimore region.

16 The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute reminds us through *The Heart Truth* campaign
17 that most women don’t know the facts about heart disease and that only 20% identify heart
18 disease as the greatest health problem facing women today when, in fact, 1 in 3 women dies of
19 heart disease. Women often fail to make the connection between risk factors, such as high blood
20 pressure and high cholesterol, and their own chance of developing heart disease.

21 The population most at risk is those women ages 40 to 60, the time when a woman’s risk of
22 heart disease starts to rise. Younger women, however, need to be aware that heart disease
23 develops gradually and can start at a young age, and older women need to take heed because it is
24 never too late to take action to prevent and control the risk factors for heart disease. However,
25 heart disease disproportionately affects women of color. African American and Hispanic women
26 in particular have high rates of the major risk factors for heart disease, including obesity, physical
27 inactivity, high blood pressure, and diabetes. In Baltimore we are fortunate that this year’s
28 celebration will include participation by Hispanic faith-based communities.

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

1 We all have grandmothers, mothers, wives, and sisters whose lives we hold dear and who
2 need to be reminded to take as good care of themselves as they take of those they selflessly love
3 and nurture each and every day.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this Body
5 endorses the celebration of *Red Dress Sunday* in Baltimore City when area churches are invited
6 to join together to promote awareness in the African American and Hispanic communities on the
7 impact of heart disease on women in America; focuses the attention of Baltimoreans on the
8 prevalence of heart disease as the #1 killer of American women; and recommits the City Council
9 to continue to partake in all future celebrations of *Red Dress Sunday*.

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
11 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006
12 Maryland General Assembly, the Vice President of Planning, Marketing, and Business
13 Development, St. Agnes Health Care, the President of the Eric Davis Foundation, the President,
14 Black Ministerial Alliance, the Pastoral Care Departments of Bon Secours Hospital, Franklin
15 Square Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Harbor Hospital Center, Johns Hopkins Bayview
16 Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland General Hospital,
17 Mercy Medical Center, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, Sinai Hospital,
18 Union Memorial Hospital, and University of Maryland Medical Center, the Senior Vice President
19 for Communications of the Maryland Hospital Association, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
20 to the City Council.