# CITY OF BALTIMORE COUNCIL BILL 07-0256R (Resolution)

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Kraft, Young, Curran, Holton, Reisinger, Mitchell, Clarke, Harris, D'Adamo, Spector, Conaway, Welch, Branch Introduced and adopted: February 12, 2007

### A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

## **Black History Month – February 2007**

For the purpose of paying tribute to people of African descent by celebrating their indomitable spirit, sustaining faith, and indefatigable psyche that enabled them to overcame the horrors of their plight in the diaspora, celebrating the many positive contributions that they have made to our nation and to our City despite the nearly insurmountable odds of legislatively sanctioned bigotry, prejudice, and segregation, and encouraging residents of, and visitors to, our great city to visit the many historical and cultural attractions that are the legacy of our proud black ancestors.

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During Black History Month and in every month of the year, we in the great City of Baltimore have much to celebrate as our Black population, which is now the proud majority, has played an essential role in the rich past, the exciting present, and the promising future. To become acquainted with this rich cultural, religious, and education history, one need only partake of the offerings of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association.

The Center proudly offers the <u>Baltimore's African American Heritage & Attractions</u> Guide's:

#### Welcome To Baltimore!

"Baltimore is a city where legends are made and legacies are born. During the 1930s and 1940s, jazz legends like Pearl Bailey, Count Basie and Duke Ellington performed at the legendary Royal Theatre on Baltimore's Pennsylvania Avenue. Baltimore-born composer and pianist Eubie Blake is honored, along with many of his colleagues, at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center on North Howard Street. All of these stories have helped shape Baltimore's, and our nation's, history.

Baltimore is also the proud birthplace of Thurgood Marshall, one of our early pioneers in the movement for civil rights. You'll also find The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum, the country's first wax museum of African American history, and the Baltimore Civil War Museum, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad. And—just opened in 2005, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture is the East Coast's largest museum chronicling the history of African Americans, housing artifacts and exhibits covering more than 350 years of Maryland African American history and culture.

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Now open is the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. The park honors Frederick
Douglass, considered one of the most prominent African American leaders of the 19th century,
and Isaac Myers, the first black owner of a marine railway shipyard in the United States.
We hope you will discover some of these stories while you are here, and come back to Baltimore
again to create a legacy of your own."

With an almost endless amount of museums, churches, monuments, statues, tours, etc., Baltimore hopes to further continue its homage to black history and the people and events that made an impact on the city and nation.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That this Body hereby pays tribute to people of African descent by celebrating their indomitable spirit, sustaining faith, and indefatigable psyche that enabled them to overcame the horrors of their plight in the diaspora, celebrates the many positive contributions that they have made to our nation and to our City despite the nearly insurmountable odds of legislatively sanctioned bigotry, prejudice, and segregation, and encourages residents of, and visitors to, our great city to visit the many historical and cultural attractions that are the legacy of our proud black ancestors.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Center, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.