

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0313R  
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: August 15, 2011

Assigned to: Urban Affairs and Aging Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Mayor's Office of Employment Development,  
Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Establishing a Permanent Fund-raising Committee for YouthWorks**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Mayor and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment  
4 Development to establish a dedicated permanent committee to expand fund-raising and job  
5 placement for YouthWorks in order to allow the program to expand and improve its  
6 effectiveness.

7 **Recitals**

8 A June hearing called by the City Council to review the state of the YouthWorks program as  
9 it nears three decades of existence allowed administrators to provide the Council with a great  
10 deal of helpful information. In the wake of this hearing, a number of innovative ideas for  
11 improving YouthWorks going forward have been raised. Some of these ideas include expanding  
12 YouthWorks into a year-round program, automating the registration process, and more  
13 systematically evaluating the job skills needed and gained by YouthWorks participants.

14 Although the current funding model has allowed YouthWorks to continue successfully for  
15 decades, implementing the above ideas while continuing to expand the number of participants in  
16 YouthWorks is likely to require new funding approaches as well. Expanding job placement  
17 throughout the year and during the traditional summer period will require increases in both  
18 funding and job sites. Currently, 90% of those supporting YouthWorks are long time donors.  
19 However, meeting the needs of expansion will require expanding the donor base by bringing in  
20 new supporters.

21 Rather than relying exclusively on time limited yearly fund-raising campaigns by officials  
22 with many other concerns on their plates, YouthWorks should look into establishing a permanent  
23 steering committee to focus exclusively on raising funds for YouthWorks and finding suitable  
24 sites for the placement of participants year-round.

25 An independent steering committee would also provide a body to more systematically assess  
26 the job related skills of YouthWorks participants as they enter and exit the program. Making  
27 these types of assessments would allow YouthWorks to better understand both what the true  
28 training needs of participants are, and which job placements are most effective at meeting these  
29 various needs. With this data, particularly effective conditions at some sites could be replicated

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

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1 in other areas. Better matches could also be made between the specific needs and offerings of  
2 employers and young employees.

3 Implementation of some or all of the suggestions being raised to improve YouthWorks would  
4 help to ensure that it becomes even more effective at helping Baltimore's youth become  
5 productive and successful members of the workforce for years to come. One of the most  
6 important ways to do this would be to create a new body focused solely on YouthWorks. This  
7 would put the program onto the firm financial footing that it needs to both continue the current  
8 level of service and seriously consider meaningful expansion.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
10 Council calls on the Mayor and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development  
11 to continue to establish a dedicated permanent committee to expand fund-raising and job  
12 placement for YouthWorks in order to allow the program to expand and improve its  
13 effectiveness.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
15 Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and the Mayor's Legislative  
16 Liaison to the City Council.