

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0087R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, D’Adamo, Young, Kraft, Holton, Branch, President
Dixon, Councilmembers Rawlings Blake, Curran, Harris, Reisinger, Spector, Mitchell
Introduced and read first time: September 19, 2005
Assigned to: Aging Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Grandparent Teacher Association**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System and the
4 President of the Maryland Council of PTA to create an affiliate program of the PTA for
5 grandparents who are currently raising children in their homes, in order to provide for the
6 special needs of grandparents raising children; and to help create a supportive environment
7 for grandparents acting as parents to be able to participate and help further their
8 grandchildren’s education and learning experience.

9 **Recitals**

10 According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are currently over 6 million children in the United
11 States today who are living in grandparent- or other relative-maintained households. At this time
12 it has not yet been determined how many of those children are being cared for without parents
13 present in the home. However, the March 2000 Current Population Survey revealed that of 5.5
14 million children living in grandparent- or other relative-maintained households, 2.1 million were
15 being raised solely by their grandparents or other relatives with no parents present. These
16 grandparents and other relatives are keeping families together and serving as a safety net to keep
17 children out of the formal foster care system. However, many grandparents and other relatives
18 caring for children face obstacles not encountered by biological parents, obstacles like the
19 inability to place the children on their health insurance policies, to obtain affordable housing in
20 which they can live with the children, and how to enroll their children in school.

21 The Census stated that there are 50,947 grandparents who reported that they are responsible
22 for their grandchildren living with them, with an overwhelming 13,707 of them residing in
23 Baltimore City. With all of these other obstacles already in place, we should be making every
24 attempt to lessen the burden that grandparents raising children have to manage. One way to do
25 this is by creating an environment in schools where grandparents feel welcome to voice their
26 concerns and take a more active and supportive approach in being informed about their
27 grandchildren’s education and learning experience.

28 The fact is that grandparents acting as parents have needs that may not be covered by
29 standard PTA practices. A GTA program would allow them to be given the same access to

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

1 information regarding their grandchild as a parent would receive. In addition, a GTA program
2 would allow grandparents to discuss situations that are specific to their needs with other
3 grandparents in the same situation. This will give them the opportunity to learn from each other
4 as well as their grandchildren’s teachers and hopefully create a more suitable educational
5 environment for the children as well as a more supportive program for the grandparents.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
7 Body calls on the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System and the President of the
8 Maryland Council of PTA to create an affiliate program of the PTA for grandparents who are
9 currently raising children in their homes, in order to provide for the special needs of
10 grandparents raising children; and to help create a supportive environment for grandparents
11 acting as parents to be able to participate and help further their grandchildren’s education and
12 learning experience.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
14 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the President of the Maryland Council of
15 PTA’s, the Community Associations listed in the Planning Department Directory, and the
16 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.