

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0149R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Middleton, Cole, Henry, D'Adamo, Kraft, Curran, Branch, Holton, Young, Reisinger, Spector, Welch, Clarke, Conaway
Introduced and adopted: September 14, 2009

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Honoring Baltimore City's Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Celebration
of 2009 National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week**

FOR the purpose of joining the President, the United States Congress, and the U.S. Department of Education in acknowledging the significant contributions that Historically Black Colleges and Universities have made to the nation and expressing appreciation and pride in the contributions that Baltimore City's Coppin State University and Morgan State University have made to our children, our City, our State, and our nation.

Recitals

In proclaiming August 30th - September 5, 2009 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, the President of the United States issued a statement that reads, in part: "For generations, education has opened doors to untold opportunities and bright futures. Through quality instruction and a personal commitment to hard work, young people in every part of our Nation have gone on to achieve success. Established by men and women of great vision, leadership, and clarity of purpose, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have provided generations of Americans with opportunity, a solid education, and hope."

"For more than 140 years, HBCUs have released the power of knowledge to countless Americans. Pivotal in the Civil Rights Movement, HBCUs offer us a window into our Nation's past as well as a path forward. Graduates of HBCUs have gone on to shape the course of American history – from W. E. B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington, to Langston Hughes and Thurgood Marshall. Today, in twenty States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, these colleges and universities are serving hundreds of thousands of students from every background and have contributed to the expansion of the African American middle class, to the growth of local communities, and to our Nation's overall economy."

A U.S. Department of Education report shows that the nation's HBCUs hold a 130-year record of "significantly increasing the percentage of black Americans who are able to attend college, effectively creating cohorts of black leadership, and helping achieve economic mobilization of African-American communities. HBCUs play the critical role of awarding more than 19% of bachelor's degrees earned by African-American who receive degrees in physics, chemistry, astronomy, environmental sciences, mathematics and biology and producing nearly 50% of the African-American public school teaching force.

Baltimore City is home to 2 of the nation's 105 HBCUs recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Coppin State University is a model of an urban, residential liberal arts university located in the northwest section of the City. Coppin, founded in 1900, at what was then called

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

Council Bill 09-0149R

1 the Colored High School (later named Douglass High School) on Pennsylvania Avenue, provides
2 academic programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, nursing, graduate studies, and
3 continuing education. Coppin has a culturally rich history as an institution providing not only
4 quality education to its students but also providing community outreach services to the
5 surrounding community. Fulfilling its unique mission of primarily focusing on the problems,
6 needs, and aspirations of the people of Baltimore’s central city and the immediate metropolitan
7 area, Coppin took over the nearby Rosemont Elementary School in 1998, and became the first
8 and only higher education institution in Maryland to manage a public school.

9 Morgan State University, Baltimore’s other HBCU, was founded in 1867, as the Centenary
10 Biblical Institute by the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to train young
11 men in the ministry. It later broadened that mission to educate both men and women as teachers.
12 By the time Morgan became a public campus in 1939, the College had become a comprehensive
13 institution. Until the mid-60s, when state teachers colleges began the transition to liberal arts
14 campuses, Morgan was one of only 2 public campuses in the state with comprehensive missions.
15 In 1975, the State Legislature designated Morgan as a university, and, in 1988, the state
16 authorized an independent governing board and strengthened Morgan’s authority to offer
17 advanced programs and designated the campus as Maryland’s Public Urban University. Morgan
18 is one of only 2 public baccalaureate-granting institutions authorized to have their own
19 governing boards. In 1988, the legislature strengthened Morgan’s authority to offer advanced
20 programs and designated the campus as Maryland’s Public Urban University.

21 At the close of the 2009 National HBCU Week Conference, in Washington D.C. August 30 –
22 September 3rd, hosted by the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and
23 Universities and the staff of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, the U.S. Education Secretary
24 remarked: “I want to conclude by suggesting that HBCUs, despite their modest resources may be
25 better positioned than some institutions of higher ed to develop a stronger culture of
26 accountability in the years ahead. During their 130-year history, HBCUs have often
27 accomplished what seemed impossible, educating generations of ill-prepared students on
28 shoestring budgets.”

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
30 Body joins the President, the United States Congress, and the U.S. Department of Education in
31 acknowledging the significant contributions that Historically Black Colleges and Universities
32 have made to the nation and expressing appreciation and pride in the contributions that
33 Baltimore City’s Coppin State University and Morgan State University have made to our
34 children, our City, our State and our nation.

35 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
36 President of Coppin State University, the President of Morgan State University, the CEO of
37 Baltimore City Schools, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.