CITY OF BALTIMORE COUNCIL BILL 16-0286R (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Middleton, Costello, Stokes, Henry, Scott, Holton, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Kraft, Mosby, President Young, Councilmembers Welch, Branch, Curran Introduced and adopted: February 1, 2016

A Council Resolution Concerning

1 2	Request for Federal Action – Support the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act
3	FOR the purpose of joining with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support
4	bipartisan efforts, such as S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, and the
5	Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406), that aim to advance criminal
6	justice reform.
7	Recitals
8	Baltimore knows firsthand the importance of reforming the criminal justice system, and joins
9	with the National Association of Counties (NACo) – the only national organization that
10	represents America's 3,069 county governments – to support bipartisan efforts, like S. 2123, the
11	Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S.
12	1513/H.R. 3406), that aim to advance these reforms.
13	Baltimore City supports measures that aim to reduce sentencing disparity, eliminate
14	unnecessary confinement, establish more rational and appropriate sentencing policies and lead to
15	better management of limited correctional resources. We also support provisions in S. 2123 that
16	would promote the expungement of certain juvenile offenses, prohibit juvenile solitary
17	confinement except in limited circumstances, and increase the instances in which juveniles are
18	eligible for parole. Further, we support pre-release reentry programs featured in S. 2123 that

not addressed, can increase their likelihood of returning to jail or prison. Reentry programs are integral to their successful reintegration into the community. Of course, reentry programs are pivotal to formerly incarcerated individuals not only prior to their release from correctional facilities, but even more so after these individuals return to their communities. With this in mind, we hope that you will give consideration and support to the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406), which would reauthorize and improve Second Chance Act programs that provide resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities. Specifically, the

would help incarcerated individuals prepare to reintegrate back into society. These individuals return to their communities with complex health, education, housing and other needs, which, if

program improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels and funds demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health

and addiction treatment and employment and mentoring services.

Baltimore, and America's counties, stand ready to work with Congress to achieve needed reforms to our nation's criminal justice system that will benefit communities across the nation.

> **EXPLANATION:** <u>Underlining</u> indicates matter added by amendment. Strike out indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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3	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the
4	Council joins the National Association of Counties (NACo) in supporting bipartisan efforts, such
5	as S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, and the Second Chance Reauthorization
5	Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406), that aim to advance criminal justice reform.
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We commend Congress on its work on the Sentencing Reform Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act and look forward to working with it to advance these measures.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
Honorable Members of the House and Senate Leadership, the Honorable Members of the
Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 114th Congress, and the Mayor's Legislative
Liaison to the City Council.

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