

Council Bill 14-0436

1 After the important commemoration of the War of 1812 and National Anthem Bicentennial
2 Celebration in September 2014 organized by Maryland’s Star-Spangled 200 Commission, it will
3 continue the needed public education about the writing of our national anthem at Ft. McHenry in
4 Baltimore.

5 “The Anthem Project” has created an educational poster to place in every school in Maryland.
6 It has established an educational display in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. These are
7 initial steps. For the project to create the identity it needs, for the city, the state, and the nation to
8 be truly educated about the Anthem, the City of Baltimore needs to adopt “Baltimore –
9 Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner” as the City’s official slogan.

10 The American flag is a national and international icon with a unique tie to Baltimore. The
11 “Star-Spangled Banner” celebrates that flag somewhere around the world almost every minute of
12 every day. It was born here and we should say so proudly and emphatically. Emphasizing
13 Baltimore’s link to our national anthem brings not only great attention but also deserved
14 historical credit to our great City. Over time it will contribute toward rebuilding the City’s
15 positive national image.

16 Recently, a nationally respected preservationist publicly commented that Baltimore “has no
17 historical face”. This is disappointing because one of the strongest cultural and economic assets
18 of Baltimore City is our historical identity. Adopting “Baltimore – Birthplace of the
19 Star-Spangled Banner” as the City’s official slogan creates that historical face – our American
20 flag, that “Star-Spangled Banner” still there over Fort McHenry, her broad stripes and white stars
21 still gallantly streaming.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

23 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
24 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

Subtitle 35. City Seal; CITY SLOGAN; Flags

§ 35-5. CITY SLOGAN.

29 THE PHRASE “BALTIMORE – BIRTHPLACE OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” IS ESTABLISHED
30 AND APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL SLOGAN OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

31 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
32 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
33 Ordinance.

34 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
35 enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City