

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0252R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Middleton, Cole, Kraft, Holton,  
Branch, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Stokes, Curran, Conaway, Spector

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2011

Assigned to: Health Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc.**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Health Commissioner and the CEO of Baltimore Healthy  
4 Start, Inc., to brief the City Council on the contributions of the organization to the health and  
5 welfare of the youngest members of Baltimore City communities over the 20 years of its  
6 existence, on the catchment areas served by the full service centers and satellite offices, on  
7 the services available at each location, and the success of the program in providing prenatal  
8 health services to the most disadvantaged women in Baltimore City.

9 **Recitals**

10 Baltimore Healthy Start is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of being the only federally funded infant  
11 mortality reduction initiative in the State of Maryland. Through the years the organization has  
12 served over 13,000 families, successfully preventing very low birth weight babies and infant  
13 mortality, exceeding the Surgeon General's Healthy People 2010 goal for Very Low Birth  
14 Weight of .9% of live births.

15 Birth weight is the single most important indicator in infant death as 1 in 4, or 25%, of babies  
16 born at very low birth weight (less than 3.3 pounds) will die before the age of one. In 2009,  
17 there were no infant deaths among Healthy Start clients for the first time in the organization's  
18 history.

19 In a 2010 press release, Healthy Start's CEO stated: "Healthy Start is doing its part to make a  
20 difference in these tiny lives, but more needs to be done. African American babies continue to  
21 die at 2 ½ times that of White babies. Annually, in Maryland, for both Black and White babies,  
22 over 600 infants die with another 7,200 born prematurely. It will only be through targeted and  
23 sustained efforts, that reform the fragmented systems that our poorer families must navigate, that  
24 city, state and nationwide success in reducing infant deaths will be achieved".

25 The Centers for Disease Control finds that the infant mortality rate is one of the most  
26 important indicators for the health of a nation. Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc., is doing its part to  
27 make a difference using its grassroots visiting model to improve the birth outcomes among the  
28 most vulnerable citizens of the City.

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

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1       Increasing public awareness of the challenges the organization faces and the services the  
2 Centers offer benefits both the public and the corporation. Concerned citizens are alerted that  
3 they can donate to Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc., through City, State, and Federal Combined  
4 Charity Campaigns. Citizens in need are made aware that they can access services at 3 full  
5 service Neighborhood Healthy Start Centers and a number of satellite offices located throughout  
6 Baltimore’s neediest neighborhoods.

7       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
8 Health Commissioner and the CEO of Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc., are requested to brief the  
9 City Council on the contributions of the organization to the health and welfare of the youngest  
10 members of Baltimore City communities over the 20 years of its existence, on the catchment  
11 areas served by the full service centers and satellite offices, on the services available at each  
12 location, and the success of the program in providing prenatal health services to the most  
13 disadvantaged women in Baltimore City.

14       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
15 Health Commissioner, the CEO of Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc., and the Mayor’s Legislative  
16 Liaison to the City Council.