

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0007R
(Resolution)

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

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2012

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - College Access for Baltimore City's School Students**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools and the
4 CollegeBound Foundation to appear before the Council to discuss ways to raise awareness of
5 the resources available to increase college access for Baltimore City's school students.

6 **Recitals**

7 It is well understood that in today's economy a college education is generally an essential
8 step on the path to a decent job and financial security. In fact, according to the U.S. Census
9 Bureau, even before the recent recession, a high school drop-out was more than 7 times more
10 likely to live in poverty than a college graduate.

11 Yet, despite the dramatically positive difference that a college education could make in their
12 lives, less than 50% of Baltimore City students enroll in college immediately after high school
13 graduation, according to the National Student Clearinghouse. Even fewer high school graduates,
14 just 1 in 10, will earn a college degree within 6 years.

15 There are many reasons for the shortage of college degrees among our high school graduates,
16 but, according to the Abell Foundation, "research consistently confirms that the failure to secure
17 college funding is the overwhelming barrier to college enrollment for inner-city kids." Many
18 more of our young people who do enroll in college are unable to complete their studies for
19 financial reasons.

20 It is easy to see why affording higher education can seem like a daunting barrier to college
21 access for many young people and their families. The College Board estimates that in 2011 the
22 average sticker price for a student to attend a public 4 year college at in-state rates was \$17,131.
23 This average sticker price rose to \$38,589 for a 4 year private institution. In a city with a median
24 household income of less than \$39,000, these numbers can make college seem like an
25 unattainable dream.

26 However, it is important for prospective undergraduates to realize that few students actually
27 have to pay these sticker prices to gain access to a college education. Again, the College Board
28 estimates that two-thirds or more of all enrolled undergraduates receive grants that reduce the
29 cost of college attendance. In fact, the average student receives an amount equal to more than

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

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1 half of their tuition in grants and tax credits. Some receive much larger grants, and many more
2 also take advantage of work-study opportunities or very low interest student loans. In total, about
3 \$178 billion in financial assistance was awarded to undergraduates in the 2010-11 school year.

4 With support of this magnitude available, financial concerns need not prevent any of our
5 children from attending college. Unfortunately, too many Baltimore families, many with no
6 history of college attendance to serve as a guide, are not aware of the resources that may be
7 available to help afford college. Navigating the maze of different grant programs can also be
8 very confusing, with awards available for everything from sports and academics, to living in
9 certain neighborhoods or contemplating particular careers, and including need based programs
10 with a variety of different standards. Still, the resources necessary for young Baltimoreans to
11 achieve their college dreams are available; and more needs to be done to help them find these
12 resources.

13 One local organization working to connect students with all of the resources they need to
14 make college accessible is the Baltimore based CollegeBound Foundation. Since 1988 this
15 group has provided both college advising and financial aid to students in 22 City public high
16 schools and has served 20,000 of the City's most disadvantaged high school students. Programs
17 such as this one can greatly assist students in realizing how obtainable a college education can be
18 despite its daunting sticker price. These programs should be broadly publicized so that all of our
19 City's students can be made aware of the tools available to improve their access to college.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
21 representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools and the CollegeBound Foundation are
22 invited to appear before the Council to discuss ways to raise awareness of the resources available
23 to increase college access for Baltimore City's school students.

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
25 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the director of the CollegeBound Foundation, and the
26 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.