CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0193R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Costello, Scott, Stokes, Holton, Clarke, Reisinger, Henry, Curran, Mosby, Spector, Welch, Branch
Introduced and adopted: October 27, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1   **November 1, 2014 – Maryland's 150th Emancipation Day**

2   FOR the purpose of joining with all Marylanders in recognizing November 1, 2014 as Maryland
3   Emancipation Day and celebrating the 150th anniversary of this momentous day for our state's
4   freedom and democracy.

5   **Recitals**

6   **WHEREAS**, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 had only freed slaves in rebel
7   states, of which Maryland was not one, leaving it to the states fighting on the Union side to
8   emancipate any slaves within their borders.

9   **WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1864, Maryland adopted a new constitution, ratified by the
10   people of Maryland, that abolished slavery, making it the first state with slaves to voluntarily free
11   them by popular vote.

12   **WHEREAS**, individual communities in Maryland have commemorated this event with
13   emancipation day celebrations annually since the end of the Civil War.

14   **WHEREAS**, in 2013 the Maryland General Assembly recognized the importance of this date
15   to Maryland and American history by adopting a law requiring the Governor to proclaim
16   November 1 of each year as Maryland Emancipation Day.

17   **WHEREAS**, November 1, 2014 will mark the 150th anniversary of this momentous day for all
18   Marylanders.

19   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
20   Council joins with all Marylanders in recognizing November 1, 2014 as Maryland Emancipation
21   Day and celebrating the 150th anniversary of this momentous day for our state's freedom and
22   democracy.

23   **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
24   Governor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.