

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0436
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Branch, Stokes, Holton, Henry, Middleton, Welch,
Clarke, Reisinger, Curran, Scott, President Young
Introduced and read first time: September 8, 2014
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Official City Slogan – “Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner”**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing “Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner” as the
4 official slogan of the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

5 BY recaptioning

6 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

7 Subtitle 35. City Seal; Flags

8 to be

9 Subtitle 35. City Seal; City Slogan; Flags

10 Baltimore City Code

11 (Edition 2000)

12 BY adding

13 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

14 Section(s) 35-5

15 Baltimore City Code

16 (Edition 2000)

Recitals

17
18
19 Our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, is sung and celebrated times too
20 numerous to count daily across the United States, and around the world. Surveys indicate
21 however that only about 20% of Baltimore City residents know that Baltimore is the birthplace of
22 the “The Star-Spangled Banner” and that percentage is much lower in Maryland’s Counties, let
23 alone outside the state of Maryland.

24 The Baltimore City Historical Society, collaborating with the Friends of Ft. McHenry in
25 cooperation with the Baltimore National Heritage Area, has established “The Anthem Project”.
26 After the important commemoration of the War of 1812 and National Anthem Bicentennial
27 Celebration in September 2014 organized by Maryland’s Star-Spangled 200 Commission, it will
28 continue the needed public education about the writing of our national anthem at Ft. McHenry in
29 Baltimore.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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

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

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

18 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

21 **Baltimore City Code**

22 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

23 **Subtitle 35. City Seal; CITY SLOGAN; Flags**

24 **§ 35-5. CITY SLOGAN.**

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

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

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