

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0166R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Mosby, President Young, Councilmembers Holton, Kraft,
Stokes, Scott, Henry, Branch, Reisinger, Clarke, Middleton, Curran
Introduced and adopted: April 7, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

US VegWeek – April 21- 27

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2 FOR the purpose of recognizing the week of April 21-27, 2014 as “US VegWeek” and
3 encouraging residents, restaurants, schools, grocery stores, organizations and other
4 institutions to join public officials in choosing and offering a greater variety of vegetarian
5 foods.

Recitals

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore was the first city in the United States to adopt Meatless Mondays in its
8 public schools system.

9 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore’s 7th District has launched a successful “Get Fit Challenge” to
10 promote fitness and nutrition as a way to improve our personal health as well as our health as a
11 community.

12 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore’s Office of Sustainability “develops and advocates for programs,
13 policies, and actions by government, citizen, businesses, and institutions that improve the
14 long-term environmental, social, and economic viability of Baltimore City”.

15 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations recognizes that “Livestock are one of the most significant
16 contributors to today’s most serious environmental problems” .

17 **WHEREAS**, recent studies and reports have demonstrated that we can lower our carbon
18 footprint simply by reducing the amount of animal-based foods we eat.

19 **WHEREAS**, a plant-based diet has been shown to use fewer resources and cause less
20 pollution.

21 **WHEREAS**, more than two-thirds of the adult population in the United States and nearly a
22 third of children and teens are overweight or obese, and obesity is associated with a higher risk of
23 various health ailments including heart disease and type-2 diabetes.

24 **WHEREAS**, the American Dietetic Association recognizes “appropriately planned vegetarian
25 diets ... may provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases” and that
26 vegetarians tend to have lower rates of heart disease, obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes5.

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, a growing number of people are reducing their meat consumption to help prevent
2 animal cruelty.

3 **WHEREAS**, national nonprofit organization Compassion Over Killing encourages people to
4 choose vegetarian foods as a way to help build a kinder, cleaner, and healthier world, and
5 municipalities across the country have officially recognized the organization’s US VegWeek
6 program to that end.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
8 Council hereby dedicates and proclaims the week of April 21-27, 2014 as “US VegWeek” and
9 encourages residents, restaurants, schools, grocery stores, organizations and other institutions to
10 join public officials in choosing and offering a greater variety of vegetarian foods.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
12 Health Commissioner, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, the CEO of Baltimore Public
13 Schools, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.