

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0213R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mosby, Middleton, Costello, Curran, Scott, Holton, Kraft,
Stokes, Henry, Clarke, Welch, Reisinger
Introduced and read first time: March 23, 2015
Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: June 1, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Informational Hearing – Sugar Free Kids

FOR the purpose of inviting members of the Sugar Free Kids coalition to appear before the Council to discuss the effects that sugar has on our children, as well as ways that these effects can be reduced and mitigated to ensure a healthy future for all of Baltimore’s children.

Recitals

Although we all want our children, and kids throughout Maryland, to be healthy, roughly 1 in 3 Maryland kids is overweight or obese, causing them to be less healthy than they should be. In fact, more kids than ever are being diagnosed with adult-like diseases such as type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol levels, and high blood pressure.

More than any other single factor, regularly consuming sugary drinks greatly increases the risk that a kid will be overweight or obese or develop type 2 diabetes as a child. Kids who drink sugary drinks daily are 3 times more likely to be overweight or obese and 7 times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than their peers who don’t drink sugary drinks.

These sugary drinks are a leading contributor to what has already become a genuine public health crisis that desperately needs to be addressed. If we don’t make some changes, this will be the first generation of kids that will live shorter lives than their parents.

Sugar Free Kids is a statewide coalition with a mission to “to reverse the trend of childhood obesity in this state by educating Marylanders about the epidemics of childhood obesity and teen diabetes and the role sugary drinks play in this crisis” and a number of ideas about steps that can be taken to help improve the environments of places where kids grow, learn, eat, and play to help set them on a healthy path for the future.

As policymakers responsible for a City with nearly 150,000 residents younger than 18, it is important that we on the City Council do all that we can to address this epidemic. An open conversation with Sugar Free Kids about the harm being caused to our children by these sugary drinks, and the options available to combat them, could be nothing but helpful to our efforts to improve the health of all of Baltimore’s children.

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

Council Bill 15-0213R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council invites members of the Sugar Free Kids coalition to appear before it to discuss the
3 effects that sugar has on our children, as well as ways that these effects can be reduced and
4 mitigated to ensure a healthy future for all of Baltimore's children.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 Health Commissioner, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Youth Commission, and
7 the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.