

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 12-0028R  
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2012

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Supporting Efforts to Bring City Year to Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools and City Year to  
4 appear before the Council to discuss the mission of City Year and the feasibility and  
5 logistical requirements of bringing City Year Programming to the Baltimore City Public  
6 School System.

7 **Recitals**

8 Education is at the foundation of all systemic issues that have blighted our communities. No  
9 matter the socio-economic demographic, education is the key to unlock an individual's future of  
10 success, and provides avenues that cultivate stronger communities and civic interest.

11 Baltimore's sustainability starts with our most precious assets, our youth. Over the past few  
12 years, we have witnessed positive indicators that highlight productive change in our education  
13 system's growth. However, to compete with an ever-changing, highly-technical and skilled  
14 global economy, Baltimore must do a better job of preparing our youth for the future. While we  
15 celebrate recent gains, such as a steady increase in graduation rates, we must reflect on the  
16 dilemma that our recent strides are not enough. We must do more to create innovative  
17 programming and resources to provide our children with the basic rights and fundamental skills  
18 to succeed.

19 City Year was founded in 1998 by two Harvard Law roommates who felt strongly that young  
20 people could be powerful resources for addressing America's most pressing issues, specifically  
21 education. The key focus of City Year's mission was derived from a John Hopkins University  
22 comprehensive study that concluded that students who are most at risk of dropping out of school  
23 could be identified early as middle school by three warning indicators: attendance, behavior, and  
24 course performance. In response, they created an "education-focused, nonprofit organization that  
25 united young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-term service to keep students in school  
26 and on track for graduation."

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

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1 Currently, City Year has been implemented in twenty-three cities in the United States, and  
2 has successfully served thousands of at-risk youth. The core focus of the organization is to  
3 leverage corporate sponsored teams of diverse young adults from around the world to provide a  
4 host of programs and services for a period of 10 months. The core teams, or corps, work to  
5 improve student attendance, behavior, and course performance in English and math.

6 In 2010, City Year was able to account for a fifty-five percent (55%) reduction in the number  
7 of students who previously had less than ninety percent (90%) school attendance rate. In the  
8 same year, City Year impacted ninety percent (90%) of active student participant's core  
9 performance literacy scores. Eighty-eight (88%) percent of teachers in a nationwide survey  
10 strongly agreed that City Year corps members helped students feel more motivated to learn.

11 The idea that education is a barometer of a city's strength is not a new concept. However, in  
12 many cases, we have been challenged to provide viable opportunities to help ignite the  
13 educational interest of our youth, and, as a result, miss several marks to propel them in the  
14 direction of lifelong civic involvement. The responsibility of identifying and creating such  
15 innovative ways to promote and encourage the importance of education rests with each Council  
16 member, the Administration, school system, community, and corporate entities. City Year's  
17 program fits perfectly into our intention of building a sustainable future for our great city

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
19 Council invites representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools and City Year to appear  
20 before the Council to discuss the mission of City Year and the feasibility, and logistical  
21 requirements, of bringing City Year Programming to the Baltimore City Public School System.

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