

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0116R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Middleton, Branch, Conaway, Young

Introduced and read first time: March 2, 2009

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment Fund –**
3 **Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Administration include a \$3 million line item in the 2009-
5 2010 City budget for the Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment Fund to expand the
6 number of individual Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises in Baltimore City.

7 **WHEREAS**, The recently passed Recovery and Reinvestment Act contained \$1.2 billion for
8 youth employment services, including summer and year-round employment; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Maryland will gain \$11.7 million from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act for
10 youth employment services; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises provide year-round employment for young
12 people in Baltimore in an innovative and effective way; and

13 **WHEREAS**, These groups hire young people to teach or train other young people a skill,
14 trade, or knowledge, and thus paid peers enter the knowledge-based economy and positively
15 affect other young people; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Peer-to-Peer jobs are in a different category than low skilled jobs, and the
17 stimulus should not subsidize traditional employers to hire young people and push adults out of
18 the low skilled jobs needed; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Over 20 after school and out-of-school groups have a Peer-to-Peer Youth
20 Enterprise component to their work with very positive outcomes, and paid peers have high
21 graduation rates, high college enrollment, more involvement to improve their own communities,
22 job skills and job readiness - ultimately retaining youth leadership in Baltimore; and

23 **WHEREAS**, According to Robert Balfanz, a researcher for the Center for the Social
24 Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University, “failure to graduate from high school has
25 become a ticket to the underclass”, and between lower tax contributions and higher social
26 program use, each high school dropout can be expected to cost at least \$200,000 more in public
27 funding over the course of his or her life than if he or she had earned a high school degree; and

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

Council Bill 09-0116R

1 **WHEREAS**, According to the KidsCount Data book in 2007, 32.6% of middle school students
2 and 42.6% high school students are absent more than 20 days within the school year, and there is
3 a direct correlation between attendance rates and drop out rates; and

4 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative we implement new solutions for the crisis endangering our young
5 people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprise groups were the largest Youth Works sites last
7 summer; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises have full support from Dr. Andrés Alonso, CEO
9 of Baltimore City Public Schools; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment fund will leverage public dollars
11 with private foundation and corporate dollars to create an on-going stream of funds for Peer-to-
12 Peer Youth Enterprises; and

13 **WHEREAS**, \$3 million will enable various Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises to hire roughly
14 1,000 young people who will teach/train between 2,000-6,000 other young people; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The City Council Education Committee fully supports Peer-to-Peer Youth
16 Enterprises and the plans for an Investment Fund to expand the number of Peer-to-Peer Youth
17 Enterprises citywide.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
19 Body requests a \$3 million dollar line item in the City budget for the Peer-to-Peer Youth
20 Enterprises Investment Fund to expand the number of Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises in
21 Baltimore City.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
23 Director of Finance, Members of the Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises, the CEO of Baltimore City
24 Public Schools, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.