



Baltimore City Youth Commission



Cody L. Dorsey
Chairman

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

May 2, 2014

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
400 City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill No. 14-0169R - Giving Youth a Voice in Community Decisions

Dear Mr. President and Members:

The Baltimore City Youth Commission has reviewed Council Bill 14-0169R, Giving Youth a Voice in Community Decisions. This resolution calls for community associations in the City of Baltimore to make a greater effort to involve youth in their discussions. Additionally, the resolution requires community associations to include at least one youth representative on their executive boards.

The Baltimore City Youth Commission supports the goals of this resolution which includes providing diversity and a voice for all community members and the abolishment of excluding minors from membership.

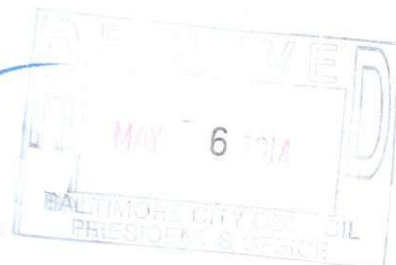
At the City level, the City Council enacted legislation that had established the Baltimore City Youth Commission, recognizing the importance of giving youth an opportunity to weigh in on issues. We believe that neighborhoods could benefit from this example. From hearing from our peers, there is a disconnection between community leaders and young people because young people feel as though they do not have the opportunity to voice their concerns.

The Youth Commission firmly believes that this resolution will serve as an asset in preparing the next generation of Baltimore City leaders.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Cody L. Dorsey
Chairman
Baltimore City Youth Commission



Cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to City Council