

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0021R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Kraft, Cole, Curran, D’Adamo, Middleton,
Welch, Reisinger, Branch, Young
At the request of: Baltimore City Peer to Peer Youth Enterprise Coordinating Group
Address: c/o Ms. Odette Ramos, 3100 Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2008
Assigned to: Education Committee and Budget and Appropriations Committee

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprise Coordinating Group**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the inclusion of a \$3 million line item in the 2008-2009 City
4 budget for the Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment Fund to expand the number of
5 individual Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises in Baltimore City.

6 **WHEREAS**, According to Robert Balfanz, a researcher for the Center for the Social
7 Organization of School at Johns Hopkins University, “failure to graduate from high school has
8 become a ticket to the underclass.” Between lower tax contributions and higher social programs
9 use, each high school dropout can be expected to cost at least \$200,000 more in public funding
10 over the course of his or her life than if he or she had earned a high school degree; and

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

14 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative that we implement new solutions for the crisis endangering our
15 young people; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises hire young people to share skills and knowledge
17 with other young people, with the paid peers entering the knowledge-based economy and
18 positively affecting other young people; and

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

23 **WHEREAS**, The Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises has full support from Dr. Andres Alonso,
24 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools; and

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

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, the City Council Education Committee fully supports Peer-to-Peer Youth
2 Enterprises and the plans for an Investment Fund to expand the number of Peer-to-Peer Youth
3 Enterprises citywide.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
5 Body requests the inclusion of a \$3 million line item in the 2008-2009 City budget for the Peer-
6 to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment Fund to expand the number of individual Peer-to-Peer
7 Youth Enterprises in Baltimore City.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, members of the Board of Estimates, members
10 of the Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprise Coordinating Council, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison
11 to the Council.