

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0119R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Harris, President Dixon, Councilmembers Holton, Clarke, Kraft, Spector, Reisinger, D’Adamo, Mitchell, Conaway, Harris, Young, Welch, Branch
At the request of: Health Care for the Homeless, Inc.
c/o Adam F. Schneider, Community Relations Associate
Address: 111 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Telephone: 410-837-5533
Introduced and adopted: December 8, 2005

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

December 21, 2005 – National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day

FOR the purpose of proclaiming December 21, 2005, National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day in Baltimore City in memory of those men, women, and children in our City who died in 2005, because they had no shelter from the elements, no safe haven from evil predators, and no spiritual balm for their wounded souls.

Recitals

Each year since 1990, on or near the 1st day of winter and the longest night of the year, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NHC) has sponsored National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember those homeless persons who have paid the ultimate price for the nation’s failure to end homelessness and those factors that contribute to persons having no regular place to call home.

This year, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) is joining the National Coalition in co-sponsoring the event to draw the nation’s attention to the plight of the estimated 3.5 million people nationwide who experience homelessness in the course of a year. Last year 125 cities across the nation – from Washington, D.C., to Detroit Michigan, to Seattle, Washington – sponsored events to honor those who have died and to recommit to the task of ending homelessness.

Here in Baltimore, last year providers remembered 80 Baltimoreans who had died without secure housing. This year, Health Care for the Homeless is working with a coalition of homeless service providers dedicated to “*Stopping Homelessness and Reducing Poverty*” (SHARP) to prepare for this year’s Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day and have, so far, collected the names of 40 individuals who died homeless with many agencies yet to report.

Health Care for the Homeless is joined in the organizational membership of SHARP by:

- AIRS (Aids Interfaith Residential Services)
- Baltimore Homeless Services, Inc.
- Catholic Charities

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

- 1 • Center for Poverty Solutions
- 2 • Center for Values and Service, Loyola College in Maryland
- 3 • Department of Social Services, Homeless Services Unit, Baltimore City
- 4 • Gaudenzia at Park Heights
- 5 • Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation
- 6 • Homeless Person’s Representation Project
- 7 • Housing Opportunities Unlimited
- 8 • Maryland Office of the Public Defender
- 9 • Mercy Supportive Housing
- 10 • St. Vincent DePaul of Baltimore
- 11 • United Ministries, Inc.

12 As those of us who are more fortunate enjoy the warmth and comfort of our homes this
13 holiday season of giving, we must keep in mind, join in spirit, and benefit by selfless action
14 those whose plight we would share were it not for the grace of a higher power beyond our
15 worldly control.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
17 Body proclaims December 21, 2005, National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day in Baltimore
18 City in memory of those men, women, and children in our City who died in 2005, because they
19 had no shelter from the elements, no safe haven from evil predators, and no spiritual balm for
20 their wounded souls.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
22 organizations of SHARP, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.