

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

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
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: July 16, 2012

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 Informational Hearing - Supporting Efforts to Bring City Year to Baltimore

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

6 Recitals

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

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

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

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