

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0216R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft, President Young, Councilmembers Holton, Henry, Middleton, Costello, Scott, Clarke, Reisinger, Curran, Spector, Mosby, Welch, Stokes
Introduced and adopted: March 30, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Women on 20s

FOR the purpose of supporting the efforts of “Women on 20s” to place a woman’s portrait on the \$20 bill, casting the City Council’s vote for Harriet Tubman as the woman to be featured on the \$20 bill, and encouraging the children of Baltimore to participate in this voting process on the “Women on 20s” website.

Recitals

During Women’s History Month in March, we celebrate the legacy and importance of women throughout history. Too often these women are ignored in the public conversation surrounding politically, socially, culturally, and economically important contributions that shaped our country.

“Women on 20s” is a nation-wide campaign that seeks to place a woman on the \$20 bill. This new likeness would be released in 2020, the one hundred year anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. Until now, only prominent men have been featured on United States paper currency. Placing a woman on \$20 bills is a way to honor the accomplishments of women in history.

The City of Council of Baltimore is proud to support the efforts of “Women on 20s.” The City Council supports the choice of Harriet Tubman as the woman to be portrayed on the \$20 bill. Harriet Tubman was a woman of courage, strength, and daring. Through her courageous work on the Underground Railroad, she brought hundreds of slaves to freedom. The Underground Railroad is not only an important part of Baltimore City’s history, but is important to all of our great state of Maryland, and has shaped the landscape of our city today.

Placing women on American currency is a symbolic gesture that contributes to equal treatment of women in society. By voting for Tubman to be the woman featured on the \$20 bill, Baltimoreans will honor a woman who faced great personal challenges as she risked her life to help others. Harriet Tubman exemplifies the values and goals for which Baltimore stands – equality, strength, and bravery. The Council is proud to cast its vote for her place on the \$20 bill, which simultaneously raises the profile of Baltimore as a key player in national history as well as honors this incredibly audacious woman.

The City Council further encourages all residents, including the children of Baltimore, to cast their vote for Harriet Tubman on the “Women on 20s” website. The “Women on 20s” campaign is a teachable moment for children across the city. School students can learn through this campaign about the importance of equality for all citizens, and honor the history of Baltimore’s majority African American population. Children of Baltimore will be able to see their brave role

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

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1 model on an everyday piece of United States culture. Honoring Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill
2 indicates to future generations that influential action can be accomplished in the face of
3 tremendous challenges. This campaign will give children the occasion to see how democracy
4 works and to be direct stakeholders in the voting process.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
6 Council supports the efforts of “Women on 20s” to place a woman’s portrait on the \$20 bill,
7 casts its vote for Harriet Tubman as the woman to be featured on the \$20 bill, and encourages the
8 children of Baltimore to participate in this voting process on the “Women on 20s” website.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
10 Honorable Members of the Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 114th Congress, the
11 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
12 Maryland General Assembly, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the President of the
13 Maryland Historical Society, the Chairman of the Baltimore City Historical Society, and the
14 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.