

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0282R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, Branch, Welch, President Young, Councilmember Middleton

At the request of: Baltimore Branch of the NAACP, c/o/Tessa Hill-Aston, President

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Introduced and adopted: May 9, 2011

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**A Pardon for Marshall “Eddie” Conway**

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2 FOR the purpose of requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate  
3 and House Delegations to the 2011 Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly to  
4 introduce and secure adoption of Senate and House Resolutions urging the Governor to grant  
5 a pardon to Marshall “Eddie” Conway, and urging the Governor to act favorably upon the  
6 request of the Baltimore City Delegation.

**Recitals**

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8 On March 5, 2001 the Baltimore City Council adopted a resolution for the purpose of  
9 supporting the 2001 Maryland General Assembly’s House Joint Resolution 24 that urged then-  
10 Governor Glendening to grant a pardon to Marshall “Eddie” Conway. The Resolution stated that  
11 Conway, a former member of the Baltimore Black Panther Party, was primarily convicted on the  
12 questionable and self-serving testimony of a jail house informant of killing one Baltimore City  
13 police officer and wounding a second officer, in 1969.

14 It held further that: “the request for a pardon for Mr. Conway must be evaluated both in  
15 terms of who testified against him and the context of the time period during which he was  
16 convicted. During the late 1960s, the opportunities and freedoms that black people enjoy today,  
17 while still not equivalent to those enjoyed by whites, were nearly nonexistent. Through the  
18 Freedom of Information Act, documents have revealed that Mr. Conway and his family were  
19 targets of J. Edgar Hoover’s notorious and now infamous FBI COINTELPRO  
20 counterintelligence program. We now know that Mr. Hoover abused his power as FBI director  
21 to target black leaders, including members of the Black Panther Party, for both criminal  
22 investigations and assassinations.

23 During his 30 years in prison, Mr. Conway has been a model prisoner. Mr. Conway has  
24 helped to create educational programs and has been a leader in peaceful protest to secure better  
25 living conditions for all inmates at the Maryland House of Corrections, in Jessup. While Mr.  
26 Conway remains an advocate for dignity and social justice, he has also earned 2 associate of arts  
27 degrees and a bachelor of social science degree while holding down a full-time job in the prison  
28 system.”

29 Despite support from political figures, community activists, civil rights groups, prisoners’  
30 rights groups, and many others, Marshall “Eddie” Conway remains incarcerated. On April 23,

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

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1 2011, a rally was held outside of the U.S. Courthouse in the shadow of the statue of the great  
2 Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, commemorating Conway’s 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and  
3 refocusing attention on his four-decade-long unjust imprisonment.

4 It is appropriate that this Governor revisit the case of Marshall “Eddie” Conway from the  
5 context of the present that allows for an enlightened examination of actions of a past age of  
6 social unrest, political upheaval, and racial dissonance.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** This  
8 Body hereby requests the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and  
9 House Delegations to the 2011 Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly to introduce  
10 and secure adoption of Senate and House Resolutions urging the Governor to grant a pardon to  
11 Marshall “Eddie” Conway, and urges the Governor to act favorably upon the request of the  
12 Baltimore City Delegation.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor; the  
14 Governor; the Baltimore City Delegation to the Special Session of the 2011 Maryland General  
15 Assembly; the Warden, Maryland Correctional Institute at Jessup; the President, Baltimore  
16 Branch NAACP; the Executive Director, Mayor’s Office of State Relations; and the Mayor’s  
17 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.