



CITY COUNCIL BILL: 24-0489
BILL REPORT
CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES
YOUTH COMMISSION – AMENDMENT

TO: The Honorable Nick Mosby, President, Baltimore City Council
FROM: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
THRU: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
ANALYST: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights and
Baltimore City Chief Equity Officer
DATE: February 25, 2024
POSITION: **Favorable**

*I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children’s laughter
Remind us how we used to be¹*

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0489 – Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission - Amendment. The bill amends the composition of the Youth Commission, provides for the compensation of Commission members, provides for the selection of officers, establishes the Commission’s Executive Committee, provides for the membership and duties of the Executive Committee, requires the adoption of a constitution and bylaws for the Commission, updates the powers and duties of the Commission, provides for staff to the Commission, requires agency cooperation with the Commission, and generally amends certain provisions of the legislation related to the Commission.

Specifically, the bill repeals and re-ordains with amendments Article 1, §22-5 to §22-7 of the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000) and adds Article 1, §22-8 to the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000).

BACKGROUND

Legislation to establish Baltimore’s Youth Commission was first introduced in 2003. The legislation passed, with bill signing occurring in November 2004. Baltimore City’s Youth Commission began operations in December 2005.

The Commission’s has consistently been to give Baltimore City youth “the opportunity to provide advice, recommendations and information for the Mayor, City Council and municipal agencies on

¹From “The Greatest Love of All”. Originally written by Linda Creed, the song was originally recorded by George Benson in 1977 for the film biography of Muhammad Ali. The song was re-recorded by Whitney Houston in 1985.



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the development of community involvement, government practices and policies, programs and services that support children, youth and their families.”²

With its strong focus on understanding and communicating about the needs of Baltimore City’s youth, the Commission has and will continue to be an excellent platform for engaging with the full array of concerns impacting Baltimore youth. Equally important is the opportunity to learn government operations and group dynamics, and, ultimately, how to serve as a leader when opportunities arise.

IMPACT OF THE REPEAL AND RE-ORDAIN

The proposed legislation will clarify the Commission’s mission as well as the duties necessary to carry meet the mission. The legislation will have a positive impact on the composition, mission, actions, and operations of the Commission.

ANALYSIS

Council Bill 24-0489 seeks to empower the members of the Youth Commission in a manner consistent with the powers and duties of other Baltimore City commissions. The effect is expected to provide a clear roadmap for processes, procedures and operations related to the Commission, and for carrying out its work. The mandate that all City agencies work with and provide support for the Commission is critical in that it helps assure that the Commission has full access to the tools and resources it needs to succeed.

EQUITY ANALYSIS

Council Bill 24-0489 seeks to update the duties and goals of the Youth Commission in a way that brings it in alignment with the duties and goals of other Baltimore City Bboards and commissions. It does so in a manner that is absent of any apparent or perceived inequitable effect or impact.

CONCLUSION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights supports a **favorable** committee report on City Council Bill 24-0489.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana P. Moore".

Dana Petersen Moore

² SOURCE: Baltimore City Webpage for “Youth Commission/History”



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