# CITY OF BALTIMORE ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_ Council Bill 14-0436

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Branch, Stokes, Holton, Henry, Middleton, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Curran, Scott, President Young Introduced and read first time: September 8, 2014 <u>Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee</u> Committee Report: Favorable Council action: Adopted Read second time: December 4, 2014

# AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

### **Official City Slogan – "Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner"**

FOR the purpose of establishing "Baltimore – Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner" as the
 official slogan of the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

- 4 By recaptioning
- 5 Article 1 Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
- 6 Subtitle 35. City Seal; Flags
- 7 to be

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- 8 Subtitle 35. City Seal; City Slogan; Flags
- 9 Baltimore City Code
- 10 (Edition 2000)
- 11 BY adding
- 12 Article 1 Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
- 13 Section(s) 35-5
- 14 Baltimore City Code
- 15 (Edition 2000)
- 16 17

### Recitals

18 Our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner", is sung and celebrated times too

19 numerous to count daily across the United States, and around the world. Surveys indicate

however that only about 20% of Baltimore City residents know that Baltimore is the birthplace of

- 21 the "The Star-Spangled Banner" and that percentage is much lower in Maryland's Counties, let
- alone outside the state of Maryland.
- The Baltimore City Historical Society, collaborating with the Friends of Ft. McHenry in
  cooperation with the Baltimore National Heritage Area, has established "The Anthem Project".

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. <u>Underlining</u> indicates matter added to the bill by amendment. Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 After the important commemoration of the War of 1812 and National Anthem Bicentennial

2 Celebration in September 2014 organized by Maryland's Star-Spangled 200 Commission, it will

3 continue the needed public education about the writing of our national anthem at Ft. McHenry in

4 Baltimore.

5 "The Anthem Project" has created an educational poster to place in every school in Maryland. 6 It has established an educational display in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. These are 7 initial steps. For the project to create the identity it needs, for the city, the state, and the nation to 8 be truly educated about the Anthem, the City of Baltimore needs to adopt "Baltimore –

9 Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner" as the City's official slogan.

The American flag is a national and international icon with a unique tie to Baltimore. The "Star-Spangled Banner" celebrates that flag somewhere around the world almost every minute of every day. It was born here and we should say so proudly and emphatically. Emphasizing Baltimore's link to our national anthem brings not only great attention but also deserved historical credit to our great City. Over time it will contribute toward rebuilding the City's positive national image.

Recently, a nationally respected preservationist publicly commented that Baltimore "has no historical face". This is disappointing because one of the strongest cultural and economic assets of Baltimore City is our historical identity. Adopting "Baltimore – Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner" as the City's official slogan creates that historical face – our American flag, that "Star-Spangled Banner" still there over Fort McHenry, her broad stripes and white stars still gallantly streaming.

### 22 Now, THEREFORE,

# SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

25	<b>Baltimore City Code</b>
26	Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
27	Subtitle 35. City Seal; CITY SLOGAN; Flags
28	§ 35-5. CITY SLOGAN.
29 30	THE PHRASE "BALTIMORE – BIRTHPLACE OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" IS ESTABLISHED AND APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL SLOGAN OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.
31 32 33	<b>SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED</b> , That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior Ordinance.

34 **SECTION 3.** AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is 35 enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Mayor, Baltimore City