



# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Legislation Text

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INTRODUCTORY\*

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL        R  
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft

### A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning  
**"Baltimore - Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner"**

FOR the purpose of supporting the use of "Baltimore - Birthplace of The StarSpangled Banner" as the official slogan of Baltimore City in order to celebrate Baltimore's essential link to our national anthem.

#### Recitals

Our national anthem, "The StarSpangled Banner", is sung and celebrated times too 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 the "The StarSpangled 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". After the important commemoration of the War of 1812 and National Anthem Bicentennial Celebration in September 2014 organized by Maryland's StarSpangled 200 Commission, it will continue the needed public education about the writing of our national anthem at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore.

"The Anthem Project" has created an educational poster to place in every school in Maryland. It has established an educational display in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. These are initial steps. For the project to create the identity it needs, for the city, the state, and the nation to be truly educated about the Anthem, the City of Baltimore needs to adopt "Baltimore - Birthplace of the StarSpangled Banner" as the City's official slogan.

The American flag is a national and international icon with a unique tie to Baltimore. The "StarSpangled 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 StarSpangled Banner" as the City's official slogan creates that historical face - our American flag, that "StarSpangled Banner" still there over Fort McHenry, her broad stripes and white stars still gallantly streaming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the council supports the use of "Baltimore - Birthplace of The StarSpangled Banner" as the official slogan of Baltimore City in order to celebrate Baltimore's essential link to our national anthem.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Archivist of the United States, the Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 113th Congress, the President of the Maryland Historical Society, the Chairman of the Baltimore City Historical Society, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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