



Legislation Text

File #: 13-0115R, Version: 0

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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Branch and Henry

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

FOR the purpose of joining with Americans nationwide to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28th, and urging all of Baltimore to commemorate this watershed moment by participating in any of the events being planned to mark the occasion and rededicating themselves to the struggle for true freedom and equality that Dr. King spoke so eloquently about on that day in 1963.

Recitals

This August marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's seminal March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28th, 1963. That day, a true watershed moment for the Civil Rights Movement, a quarter million demonstrators representing a true cross section of America gathered on the National Mall for an event highlighted by Dr. King's galvanizing "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. It was an experience that changed the lives of thousands of participants, and paved the way for changes that would affect millions more.

A half century later, although we have made tremendous progress, much more still remains to be done to achieve Dr. King's vision for a more equal and just society. This 50th anniversary can, and should, serve as a rallying point as we join together to finish the work still undone.

In that spirit, a number of events commemorating the march have been planned in Washington and nationwide. The most prominent of these commemorations is a massive gathering of labor, faith, youth, and civil rights groups in Washington on Saturday, August 24th for a march on the theme of "Realizing the Dream". This event will be followed by nationwide commemorations on the 28th, including "Trayvon Martin Day Assemblies" organized by the People's Power Assemblies.

These efforts are important to not only celebrate a turning point in American history, but also as an opportunity to

refocus on today's challenges and impart some of the spirit and energy of 1963 to the new generation of activists and problem solvers seeking to overcome these challenges. For both reasons, they should be supported.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council joins with Americans nationwide in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28th, and urges all of Baltimore to commemorate this watershed moment by participating in any of the events being planned to mark the occasion and rededicating themselves to the struggle for true freedom and equality that Dr. King spoke so eloquently about on that day in 1963.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the organizers of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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