



# City of Baltimore

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

## Legislation Text

File #: 24-0224R, Version: 0

\* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.  
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

### Introductory\*

## City of Baltimore Council Bill R (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen

### A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning

### **Honoring Carlton Ray Smith and Residents Impacted by the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

For the purpose of honoring the advocacy of Carlton Ray Smith and affirming the City's commitment to relentlessly pursuing funding to provide HIV/AIDS treatment and services to those in financial need.

### Recitals

**Whereas**, the City Council expresses its deepest condolences for the loss of Carlton Ray Smith, lovingly known as "the Duchess", who was a longtime advocate for Baltimore's LGBTQIA+ community and those living with HIV/AIDS in particular. Carlton Ray Smith passed away at on May 29, 2024 at age 61.

**Whereas**, in 2023, the City extended protections against discrimination based on an individual's HIV or AIDS status in regards to employment, public accommodations, education, healthcare, public welfare, and housing.

**Whereas**, HIV and AIDS remain disease that disproportionately impact the LGBTQIA+ community, and same-gender loving gay men and transgender women in particular, as well as other members of Baltimore's communities.

**Whereas**, federal funding from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White Part B Maryland State Special Services HIV/AIDS program of the State of Maryland is being cut from \$17.9 million in fiscal year 2024 to \$5.3 million in fiscal year 2025, a 76 percent decrease.

**Whereas**, the Ryan White Program funds serve those people living with HIV/AIDS with the greatest economic need.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore**, that the City Council honors the advocacy of Carlton Ray Smith and affirms the City's commitment to relentlessly pursuing funding to provide HIV/AIDS treatment and services to those in financial need.

**And be it further resolved**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Wes Moore, the Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, the Baltimore City Delegation to the General Assembly, the

LGBTQIA+ Caucus of the General Assembly, the Mayor, the Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City LGBTQ+ Commission, the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, and the Mayor's legislative liaison to the City Council.