



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: President Young

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Building on the Success of the Rec and Tech Center Model

FOR the purpose of commending the Digital Harbor Foundation and the Liberty Rec and Tech Center for their groundbreaking work that is bringing so many benefits to our community, and calling on representatives from the Departments of Recreation & Parks and Finance to appear before the Council to discuss how the City can allocate the necessary funding and other resources to enable other recreation centers to follow this model.

Recitals

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's recent visit to the Liberty Rec and Tech Center underscored how it, and the Digital Harbor Foundation's Rec and Tech program, have rapidly risen to prominence as national models for community and youth engagement. This center, slated for closing 3 years ago, was saved by the surrounding community and has now become a community pillar with courses on everything from coding to sewing, GED classes, exercise programs, and an active food kitchen.

The involvement of community and non-profit partners, including the Digital Harbor Foundation, has been critical to this transformation. Volunteer help from Baltimore's tech community, and generous financial support from both non-profits and corporations, has enabled these technology centered programs to take off and thrive.

Digital Harbor and Liberty's model of partnership between the City and the community, with private, non-profit, and public stakeholders all contributing resources, is one that should be studied and emulated. There's no reason why other neighborhoods couldn't organize around similar Rec and Tech centers. Or why other recreation centers couldn't take advantage of enthusiasm from different sectors of Baltimore's diverse community to carve out their own niches through

partnerships with non▲profits and businesses that focus on biotechnology, agriculture and food, our maritime heritage, or any number of other areas.

The Department of Recreation and Parks, and the City as a whole, should be actively seeking out opportunities to facilitate the kind of broad partnerships that have made Liberty so successful, and finding ways to step up with additional funding and resources to get programs based on this model up and running.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council commends the Digital Harbor Foundation and the Liberty Rec and Tech Center for their groundbreaking work that is bringing so many benefits to our community, and calls on representatives from the Departments of Recreation & Parks and Finance to appear before the Council to discuss how the City can allocate the necessary funding and other resources to enable other recreation centers to follow this model.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Recreation and Parks, the Director of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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