

R002-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**
20 **LAW AND ORDER IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE**

30 **WHEREAS:** Since the opening of school in September, the city Fire Department has
40 responded to at least 42 fires or false alarms at 14 schools and in some cases,
50 violence has erupted as students were evacuated from the buildings; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Marietta English, the President of the Baltimore Teachers Union stated, “There’s
70 no one in the stairwells. They’ve gone from what they considered a safe school
80 to a school where they have to lock their [classroom] doors and stay inside”;
90 and,

100 **WHEREAS:** President English continued, “They feel unsafe that the students who they
110 suspect are doing things in their classrooms are not being suspended. A number
120 of administrators are being pressured not to fully enforce the school systems
130 suspension policy. Now, the policy is, ‘Well, we won’t suspend children
140 because we don’t want to be on this highly dangerous list””; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** Earlier in the academic year, problems were concentrated at Walbrook High
160 Uniform Services Academy in West Baltimore where, after one evacuation, a
170 gunshot rang out as students milled outside the school; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** The fire problems spread to more schools, and police ended large fights at two
190 middle schools by spraying students with Mace or similar substances; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** Last school year, a total of 168 fires were set at 49 city schools, according to
210 Mayor Martin O’Malley’s office; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** On October 21, 2004, two boys were shot and wounded near Thurgood Marshall
230 Middle School; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** Baltimore Mayor Martin O’Malley said he believes the very people complaining
250 should do more to help solve school problems; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** Mayor O’Malley stated, “We need the principals and the teachers to be a part
270 of this. We need the teacher’s union leadership to step up. I know it’s not their
280 job to patrol the hallways. But you know what? It’s not the Fire Department’s
290 job, either, if you want to be that way about it”; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** On August 23, 2002, police reports indicate that Angela Dawson was assaulted
310 outside of her home while cleaning graffiti from her siding; and,

320 **WHEREAS:** On August 25, 2002, police reports indicate a brick being thrown through the
330 kitchen window of the Dawson residence and a few shards of the glass went into
340 one of the children’s eye; and,

350 **WHEREAS:** At 2:18am on the morning of October 16 2002, a man kicked in the front door,
360 splashed gasoline around—paying close attention to the staircase, the only
370 escape route from the upstairs bedrooms—and lit the gas on fire; Angela, 36,
380 Carnell, 43, Lawanda Ortiz, 14, Juan Ortiz, 12, Carnell Jr., 10, and the twins
390 Kevin and Keith, 9, were in their rooms on the second and third floors; and,

400 **WHEREAS:** Mayor O'Malley publicly stated, "People have a very easy time blowing off
410 homicides in the city of Baltimore. But the fact of the matter is ... these kids had
420 absolutely no culpability in what happened to them. And I am going to do
430 everything in my power to make sure the sacrifice they made was not in vain;"
440 and,

450 **WHEREAS:** As of October 21, 2004, Baltimore City has witnessed 222 murders compared to
460 200 this same time last year; and,

470 **WHEREAS:** Baltimore, which recorded it's 15,000th homicide in 2003, is the Most Violent
480 and Second-Most Deadly Per Capita of the 25 largest US cities according to the
490 FBI's Uniform Crime Reports; and,

500 **WHEREAS:** According to these same statistics, resident drug addicts make up nearly 15% of
510 Baltimore's dwindling population base—that's nearly 1 of every 8 citizens; and,

520 **WHEREAS:** During the last decade, Baltimore recorded 10 consecutive years of 300+
530 murders. That's 3000 murders to match Cal Ripken's 3000th career baseball hit
540 with no end to the killing in sight; and,

550 **WHEREAS:** Baltimore City ranks number two in the nation for robbery, third most
560 unfriendly city for kids, fourth most dangerous city in the US, ninth for most
570 aggravated assaults, and has the tenth highest personal crime risk in the nation;
580 and,

590 **WHEREAS:** In 2001, the Baltimore Sun reported common slogans that are used for the City
600 of Baltimore – among which include the following: "Welcome to Baltimore:
610 Enter at Your Own Risk", "Baltimore: No. 1 in Killing Cops; No. 1 in Robbery;
620 No. 1 in Heroin Addiction", and "Baltimore: The Most Violent City in
630 America"; and

640 **WHEREAS:** According to Mayor O'Malley's crime website, it states, "Better and more
650 active enforcement can and will lead to dramatic reductions in crime. As crime
660 then decreases, arrests, in the aggregate, will eventually decrease. The trends in
670 Baltimore exhibit elements of both trends with the exception of 1996, when
680 arrests decreased concurrently with reported decreases in crime".

690 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges
700 Mayor Martin O'Malley to protect all schools where students are intentionally
710 setting fires by sending a taskforce of city police, in full protective gear, to all
720 city schools where students are intentionally setting fires; and,

730 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges Mayor
740 Martin O'Malley, and the Baltimore City Council, to publicly call on Governor
750 Robert Ehrlich to send a State Police taskforce into Baltimore City to
760 significantly reduce the amount of crime and arrest all suspected criminals on
770 the streets of Baltimore City; and,

780 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges Mayor
790 Martin O'Malley, and the Baltimore City Council, to publicly call on Governor
800 Robert Ehrlich to activate the National Guard's Military Police Division to
810 partner with the State Police taskforce in arresting any and all suspected
820 criminals on the streets of Baltimore City; and,

- 830 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges Mayor
840 O'Malley to dismiss Bonnie Copeland as the CEO of the Baltimore City Public
850 Schools and nominate a more effective public servant; and,
- 860 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges
870 Governor Robert Ehrlich to send a State Police taskforce, into Baltimore City,
880 to arrest any and all suspected criminals on the streets of Baltimore; and,
- 890 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges
900 Governor Robert Ehrlich to activate the National Guard's Military Police
910 Division to partner with and work at the direction of the State Police taskforce
920 in arresting any and all suspected criminals on the streets of Baltimore City; and,
- 930 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strong urges State's
940 Attorney Patricia Jessemy not to accept any plea bargaining with any suspected
950 criminals unless a significant benefit to do so can be shown; and,
- 960 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature requests that the
970 religious leaders of Baltimore to create a taskforce that will involve the
980 community in improving the quality of life for all members of the community;
990 and,
- 1000 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Baltimore
1010 City Government, and the Maryland State Government to provide assistance and
1020 create a liaison office to partner with the taskforce created by the religious
1030 leaders of Baltimore.
- 1040 **MANDATES:** Mayor Martin O'Malley
1050 Governor Robert Ehrlich
1060 State's Attorney Patricia Jessemy

SPONSOR:

Craig Reynolds, Anne Arundel Community College

CO-SPONSOR(S):

Daniel Bowen, University of Maryland College Park
Holly Brownley, St. Mary's College
Matthew Penick, University of Maryland Baltimore County