WHEREAS, Law enforcement officials suspect that the increase in Black male murder is related to drug trafficking and gang violence; and

WHEREAS, Black males are dramatically overrepresented in both the adult prison population and the Department of Juvenile Services facilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Commission on Black Males; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission be composed of 17 members including:

(1)   (i)   3 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

       (ii)   3 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2)   2 members from the State Department of Education;

(3)   2 members from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(4)   2 members from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections;

(5)   2 members from the Department of Economic and Employment Development;

(6)   1 member from the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and

(7)   2 members from the public at large; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor designate the chairman of the Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the Office of the Governor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Commission is to:

(1)   Oversee and supervise four separate and distinct subcommittees devoted to solving problems and advancing recommendations exclusively pertinent to Black males, in the areas of unemployment, criminal justice, education, and health;

(2)   Conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the problems concerning Black males in the four targeted areas;

(3)   Hold public hearings for the purpose of collecting data;

(4)   Identify existing federal, State, and local programs that address problems and solutions relevant to the targeted areas of study;

(5)   Implement appropriate new programs, or demonstration projects, or both;

(6)   Develop and implement community education and public awareness