

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0187R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen
Introduced and read first time: September 19, 2023
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Police Department, Department of Transportation, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office

A BILL ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Theft of Cars**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and representatives from the
4 Baltimore City Police Department, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and
5 Engagement, the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City
6 Sheriff’s Office, the Office of the Maryland Attorney General, the Maryland Department of
7 Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile
8 Services to engage in a discussion with the City Council regarding the recent rise in auto
9 thefts throughout Baltimore City, including a discussion of options to prevent or mitigate
10 such occurrences.

11 **Recitals**

12 **WHEREAS**, in recent months, incidents of automobile theft have been prevalent in Baltimore
13 and across the United States.

14 **WHEREAS**, as of August 19, year-to-date carjackings have decreased 33 percent compared to
15 the same period of 2022; however, auto thefts have increased by 224.6 percent in the City.

16 **WHEREAS**, as of May 11, 41 percent of all vehicles stolen in the City year-to-date were
17 manufactured by Kia or Hyundai.

18 **WHEREAS**, on May 11, the City of Baltimore joined other U.S. cities and filed a lawsuit
19 against Hyundai and Kia for failing to equip their vehicles with industry-standard vehicle
20 immobilization technology.

21 **WHEREAS**, on February 8, the driver of a stolen Kia killed Alfred Fincher, a pedestrian, and
22 also caused a vacant building to collapse on North Avenue.

23 **WHEREAS**, on August 18, an armed carjacking escalated into the fatal shooting of Darrell
24 Benner in Canton.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **WHEREAS**, these trends are extremely concerning, especially considering that most citizens
2 who own cars in Baltimore City park in public spaces and are unable to protect themselves and
3 their vehicles by parking in personal garages.

4 **WHEREAS**, increasingly, suspects and those charged in these cases are juveniles, and the City
5 must find solutions to prevent youth from participating in criminal activity.

6 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the City works to prevent carjackings and grand theft auto to
7 ensure the safety of Baltimore residents.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the City
9 Council invites the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and representatives from the Baltimore City
10 Police Department, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Office of
11 the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, the Office of the
12 Maryland Attorney General, the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle
13 Administration, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services to engage in a discussion
14 with the City Council regarding the recent rise in auto thefts throughout Baltimore City,
15 including a discussion of options to prevent or mitigate such occurrences.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City
17 Police Commissioner, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and
18 Engagement, the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety, the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the
19 Baltimore City Sheriff, the Maryland Attorney General, the Administrator of the Motor Vehicle
20 Administration, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, and the Mayor’s
21 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.