

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0203R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Costello, Branch, Kraft, Henry, Reisinger, Middleton, Clarke,
Welch, Curran, Scott, Mosby, Holton, Stokes, Spector, President Young

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Role and Structure of Police Community Relations Councils**

3 FOR the purpose of calling upon the Police Department and the Law Department to appear before
4 the City Council to provide information on the role of Police Community Relations Councils
5 (CRCs), describe the relationship between CRCs and the Police Department and community,
6 and discuss opportunities to formalize the role, relationships, and structure of the CRCs
7 City-wide.

8 **Recitals**

9 The Police Community Relations Councils (CRCs) are a bridge between the Baltimore Police
10 Department and the community. There are currently nine CRCs, each one associated with one of
11 the nine Police Department districts. Each CRC’s purpose should be to, among other things,
12 create understanding and cooperation between the police and citizens, provide opportunities for
13 citizens to suggest improvements in the District’s police service, promote increased cooperation
14 between the police, citizens and other agencies, and assist in crime prevention through
15 distributing information on crime deterrence.

16 The Mayor has prioritized the relationship between the Baltimore Police Department and the
17 communities they serve through the goal of safer streets. An investigation into the structure of
18 the Community Relations Council in each police district is conducive to this goal. It is important
19 that the Council be provided with an update about each Community Relations Councils’
20 authority, bylaws, and structure.

21 Other broad questions including defining the role of the Community Relations Council,
22 determining how the Community Relations Councils are managed, possible conflicts of interest,
23 and assessing how the Community Relations Councils communicate with the Baltimore Police
24 Department, appear to remain unsettled. These questions need to be resolved, and a clear answer
25 as to a unified structure and bylaws, needs to be provided.

26 In order for the City to make progress towards the Mayor’s stated goal of providing safer
27 streets, it is essential that all of these concerns be addressed as soon as possible. The community
28 deserves a full update on the current authority and structure of the Community Relations
29 Councils.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 15-0203R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
2 Council calls on the Police Department and the Law Department to appear before the City
3 Council to provide information on the role of Police Community Relations Councils (CRCs),
4 describe the relationship between CRCs and the Police Department and community, and discuss
5 opportunities to formalize the role, relationships, and structure of the CRCs City-wide.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Police Commissioner, the City Solicitor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.