CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0231R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Middleton, Costello, Scott, Kraft, Stokes, Clarke, Reisinger, Spector, Welch, Mosby, Branch, Curran, Holton
Introduced and read first time: June 1, 2015
Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: October 26, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Informational Hearing – Community Policing – Officer Friendly

FOR the purpose of inviting the Police Commissioner, the Youth Commission, and community leaders from across Baltimore City to appear before the Council to discuss the process of improving the relationship between the Police Department and the youth of Baltimore, and to explore reinvigorating the "Officer Friendly" program.

Recitals

"Officer Friendly" is a community-policing initiative where police officers engage youth to build relationships and trust at a young age. Police officers enter classrooms and teach the youth about the importance of their policing work. Also, police officers teach the youth how to protect themselves from various dangerous situations they may encounter.

This relationship is not just built in the classroom, but also in the community. Police patrol the communities around the schools they visited; working the same areas day-after-day for long periods of time. Police officers would know the parents in the community and would look out for the well-being of the youth.

Officer Friendly was a popular program for several decades, but faded away in the late 1980s with the adoption of different policing and community-relations strategies.

Officer Friendly reinforces the police axiom of "to protect and serve" and helps to eliminate the intimidation or dislike of the police by building positive relationships between police and the communities they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council invites the Police Commissioner, the Youth Commission, and community leaders from across Baltimore City to appear before it to discuss the process of improving the relationship between the Police Department and the youth of Baltimore, and to explore reinvigorating the "Officer Friendly" program.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Police Commissioner, the Youth Commission, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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