

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0108R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Middleton, Henry, Young, Curran,  
Cole, Kraft, D'Adamo, Welch, Branch, Reisinger, Conaway, Clarke, Young, Spector

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Legislative Oversight – Baltimore Police Department**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore Police Commissioner to report to the City Council  
4 on the effect of overtime spending budget cutbacks on crime prevention; and on the efficacy  
5 of restructuring the present formation of police districts as well as reporting methods of  
6 minor crimes in order to shorten response time and to provide better service to the citizenry.

7 **Recitals**

8 This past year Baltimore City addressed a continually worsening economy and  
9 accompanying reductions in State aid by imposing drastic across-the-board spending cuts that  
10 required City agencies to cut spending by more than 12%. And while public safety agencies  
11 budgets had to impose less-severe cuts, the Police Department was instructed to curtail overtime  
12 spending that had consistently exceeded budgeted amounts in past fiscal years.

13 To address the budget crisis, the Police Department disbanded several specialty units and  
14 attempted to curtail overtime spending, actions, it has been speculated, which may have  
15 contributed to the worst November homicide rate in 9 years. The media reported that  
16 Baltimore's deadliest month of 2008 coincided with substantial reductions in overtime spending  
17 that resulted in shifts across the City being short of personnel.

18 Last year, homicides were reduced to the lowest level since the 1980s, which was the  
19 steepest one-year decline in more than forty years. However, in recent months, killings have  
20 increased and our city's progress has been threatened. Sadly, as of Thursday, February 05, 2009,  
21 murders have increased by 63% over this time last year.

22 It is difficult to ascertain if there is a correlation between overtime spending and the crime  
23 rate. An official briefing will serve to update the Council on the effects of budgetary cutbacks.  
24 In addition, it would help to determine whether the effects of restructuring the current district,  
25 post and sector configurations as well as whether implementing online and telephone reporting  
26 of minor crimes would make the police more efficient in responding to the citizenry.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
28 Baltimore Police Commissioner is requested to report to the City Council on the effect of  
29 overtime spending budget cutbacks on crime prevention; and to report on the efficacy of

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

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1 restructuring the present formation of police districts in order to shorten response time to police-  
2 involved incidents.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
4 Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Director of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to  
5 the City Council.