

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 19-0183R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Pinkett, Middleton, Clarke,  
President Scott, Councilmember Reisinger  
Introduced and read first time: December 2, 2019  
Assigned to: Health Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable  
Adopted: January 27, 2020

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Informational Hearing – Fish Kills**

FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, A Baltimore City water pipe broke under the Ingleside Avenue Bridge in Woodlawn and dumped over 10 million gallons of chlorinated water into Dead Run stream between September 7 and September 9, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Dead fish were found along a 2-mile stretch of Dead Run stream below the pipe; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the spill killed nearly 2000 fish, including 78 of the endangered American eel; and

**WHEREAS**, The fish were discovered 2 days after George Farrant, Vice President of Friends Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park, reported to the City that gray water that smelled strongly of chlorine was rushing into the stream; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland Department of the Environment found chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L, or 8 times above the legal limit for a waterway, with chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L being considered safe for human consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, The Maryland Department of the Environment found that the City Department of Public Works, as owner of the pipe, was in non-compliance due to the elevated levels of chlorine in the stream; and

**WHEREAS**, Last year the Maryland Department of the Environment cited the City for dumping as much as 4 times the legal limit of chlorinated water from the Druid Lake reservoir into the Jones Falls; and

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

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1       **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council wants to know what the Department of Public Works  
2 is doing to prevent fish kills and further spills of chlorinated water into streams and other bodies  
3 of water.

4       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City  
5 Council requests the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational  
6 hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and  
7 killed 2000 fish.

8       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
9 Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.