

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0283R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Young, Harris, President Rawlings-Blake,  
Councilmembers Kraft, D'Adamo, Spector, Middleton, Conaway, Holton, Welch, Reisinger,  
Mitchell, Crider, Clarke

At the request of: Lauraville Improvement Association & the Loch Raven Improvement  
Association, c/o Chris Muldowney  
Address: 2715 Woodsdale Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21214  
Telephone: 410-426-2529

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: June 4, 2007

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Baltimore City Animal Control**

FOR the purpose of urgently requesting the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to  
immediately provide adequate funding to the Baltimore City Bureau of Animal Control, the  
Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc., (BARCS), and the Baltimore City Police  
Department to successfully address issues of animal control, cruelty to animals, and  
endangerment of persons by vicious animals in Baltimore City and to increase the funding in  
succeeding years until the funding levels are equal to those in other American cities of  
comparable size and demographics.

**Recitals**

Historically, Baltimore City Animal Control has been underfunded, and consequently many  
issues relating to animal cruelty, animal neglect, endangerment of citizens, dog aggression, and  
the heinous and dangerous practice of dog fighting, a gateway activity to a drug and gun culture,  
have been neglected or ignored completely.

Experts in the behavioral sciences have long identified a correlation between the impaired  
empathy that allows persons to engage in cruelty to animals to an increased likelihood of a  
psychological state that leads to a danger of abuse of humans, particularly those most vulnerable,  
the young and the elderly.

In 2005, the City reorganized its animal shelter into the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care  
Shelter, Inc., (BARCS), a non-profit organization with the specific mission of protecting animals  
from neglect, abuse, and exploitation, to advocate their interests and welfare, and to inspire  
awareness and compassion for all living things.

To effectively address issues related to animal control, the humane treatment of animals, and  
the enforcement of criminal and civil sanctions of persons who engage in animal cruelty or  
neglect, the Lauraville and Loch Raven Improvement Associations urge the City of Baltimore to

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

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1 move toward addressing the inadequate funding of Baltimore City Animal Control and BARCS  
2 by:

- 3 • Adding 3 to 5 additional trained Animal Control Officers in the Bureau of Animal  
4 Control this budget cycle and increasing the staff each succeeding year until an  
5 appropriate staffing level is achieved to address Baltimore’s animal control and  
6 related issues.
- 7 • By funding BARCS’ budget request of \$290,000 that will allow for additional  
8 veterinarian staff services and the procurement of adequate supplies to provide  
9 services to alleviate the suffering of the many animals that are dumped at their door  
10 daily, many in horrible condition, to provide humane treatment for those that can be  
11 saved, and to find adoptive homes for as many as possible.
- 12 • By pledging to increase funding to the Bureau of Animal Control and BARCS until  
13 it reaches a funding level comparable to those of other American cities of similar  
14 size and demographics.
- 15 • By providing funding to train Baltimore City Police to deal with vicious dogs and  
16 incidents of animal cruelty so that the Police Department and the Bureau of Animal  
17 Control can work together to address the epidemic of cruelty and danger that uses  
18 living creatures as bait and aggressors in dog fights and weapons of intimidation in  
19 the drug trade.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
21 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City is urgently requested to immediately provide  
22 adequate funding to the Baltimore City Bureau of Animal Control, BARCS, and the Baltimore  
23 City Police Department to successfully address issues of animal control, cruelty to animals, and  
24 endangerment of persons by vicious animals in Baltimore City and to increase the funding in  
25 succeeding years until the funding levels are equal to those in other American cities of  
26 comparable size and demographics.

27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
28 President of the Lauraville Improvement Association, the President of the Loch Raven  
29 Improvement Association, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Baltimore Police  
30 Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.