

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0047R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey, Bullock

Introduced and read first time: June 8, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, City Administrator, Department of Planning, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, Department of Public Works, Office of the Comptroller, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the
4 Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the
5 Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the
6 Bureau of Solid Waste, the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the
7 Comptroller, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on
8 the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots
9 and green spaces; and recommending to the Administration that a single City agency be
10 charged with the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green
11 spaces.

12 **Recitals**

13 According to data provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development and
14 the Department of Planning, there are currently 9,297 vacant or abandoned properties owned by
15 the City of Baltimore and 7,946, or over 85%, of these are vacant lots requiring mowing. With
16 the total number of vacant City-owned lots hovering around 8,000, a single bureau would
17 increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of this City service.

18 In 2010, 4,000 lots owned by the Mayor and City Council, which are managed by the
19 Department of Housing and Community Development, averaged \$760 per lot for 3 grass cutting
20 seasons and \$1,015 per lot for annual trash and debris removal, totaling a little over \$7,000,000
21 for total average maintenance cost for all the lots.

22 Consolidating all mowing operations in a single agency will eliminate confusion in
23 determining which City agency is responsible for mowing which City-owned parcel. It would
24 also create opportunities for the City to provide better service with greater efficiency in both cost
25 and response time.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
2 Council requests the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the
3 Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the
4 Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste,
5 the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the Comptroller, and the Chief
6 of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of
7 calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and
8 recommends to the Administration that a single City agency be charged with the responsibility
9 for mowing all City-owned lots, lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces.

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
11 Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Planning,
12 the Sustainability Coordinator, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of
13 the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid
14 Waste, the Office of the Comptroller, the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management
15 Research, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.