

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

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

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Environmental Control
Board

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Fish Kills**

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

6 **Recitals**

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

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

12 **WHEREAS**, According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the spill killed nearly
13 2000 fish, including 78 of the endangered American eel; and

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

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

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

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

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