

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0164R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cole, Henry, Middleton, Young, Kraft, Holton, D’Adamo,
Clarke, Welch, Reisinger, Spector, Conaway, Branch
Introduced and read first time: October 19, 2009
Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: February 1, 2010

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 Informational Hearing – Procurement Approval Process Study

2 FOR the purpose of requesting representatives of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies,
3 the Baltimore Economy and Efficiency Foundation, and the Baltimore City Director of
4 Finance to report to the City Council on the recent Procurement Approval Process Study of
5 Baltimore City government.

6 Recitals

7 **WHEREAS**, The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, in its procurement
8 management audit of the City of Baltimore in 2001, noted that the current thresholds in place
9 created a “slow and burdensome process” that is “cumbersome and considered an obstacle by
10 City agencies”.

11 **WHEREAS**, The Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies was engaged by the Baltimore
12 Economy and Efficiency Foundation to comparatively analyze the procurement approval process
13 in Baltimore City, other home-rule Maryland counties, and selected cities around the country.

14 **WHEREAS**, The Johns Hopkins study found that:

- 15 • Baltimore City’s Charter includes far more prescriptive language than any other
16 home-rule locality examined.

- 17 • When municipal charters are not regularly reviewed and updated, inflation causes
18 specific codified dollar amounts to lose the relationship with economic conditions
19 that the charter’s framers intended.

- 20 • Sluggishness in the purchasing system imposes costs on all parties: agencies that need
21 goods and services to fulfill their public purpose; citizens who depend on government
22 services; and companies, particularly small ones, that seek to participate in delivering
23 goods and services to or on behalf of government.

- 24 • Through the unique institution of the Board of Estimates, the work of the City is done
25 in public.

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

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- The smallest contracts are not only most costly to the government, but also least profitable to small companies, which experience comparable transaction costs. Subcontracts on these small contracts are even less appealing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the City Council requests representatives of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, the Baltimore Economy and Efficiency Foundation, and the Baltimore City Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the recent Procurement Approval Process Study of Baltimore City government.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, the Baltimore Economic and Efficiency Foundation, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.