

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0098R
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett, Porter, Middleton, Bullock

Introduced and read first time: March 21, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Transportation, Planning Department, Department of Real Estate, Department of Public Works, City Administrator

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **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.

10 **Recitals**

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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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.

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