

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0298R  
(Resolution)**

---

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Young, D’Adamo, Holton, Clarke,  
Reisinger, Mitchell, Middleton, Conaway, Crider

Introduced and read first time: June 4, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner, Department of Finance,  
Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice

---

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Police Staffing Shortage – Baltimore City’s Rainy Day Is Here!**

3 FOR the purpose of respectfully urging the Mayor to approve an emergency disbursement of \$2  
4 million from the City’s “Rainy Day Fund” to begin an immediate and aggressive campaign  
5 to recruit new Baltimore City Police Officers to fill vacancies to enable the Baltimore City  
6 Police Department to fully implement the Commissioner’s Public Safety Strategy and  
7 Baltimore Against Illegal Guns initiative.

8 **Recitals**

9 On May 30, 2 people were shot to death in separate incidents, bringing the homicide toll to  
10 122 this year and underscoring the need for City officials’ emergent response to the violent  
11 crime that has escalated to a crucial stage, threatening the lives and safety of the residents of  
12 Baltimore’s embattled neighborhoods.

13 Baltimore’s Police Commissioner has announced that the Department’s Public Safety  
14 Strategy to achieve the goal of reducing violent crime and strengthening public trust will employ  
15 targeted enforcement, community engagement, and building strong partnerships, and that the  
16 Baltimore Against Illegal Guns initiative is based on a zero-tolerance for guns that prioritizes the  
17 enforcement, prosecution, and punishment of gun crime.

18 The targeted enforcement strategies that would afford law enforcement the opportunity to  
19 focus resources on the most dangerous and violent criminals cannot be optimized because  
20 currently the force of 3,118 “funded strength positions” is short at least 140 uniformed officers, a  
21 number roughly equal to an entire district deployment.

22 In this time of a developing violent crime crisis, an emergency plan to fill the existing  
23 vacancies is crucial, and the inclusion of the following elements are essential:

- 24 • The production of public service announcements aimed at recruiting new officers to  
25 air by August 1, 2007.
- 26 • The development of recruitment banners to display at Baltimore City Police  
27 Headquarters, as well as at facilities in each of the 9 Police Districts.

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

**Council Bill 07-0298R**

- 1 • The creation of recruitment materials targeted at recent Baltimore City high school  
2 graduates, current Baltimore City Community College students, and other eligible  
3 City residents.
- 4 • Materials to be used at Police Department job fairs to be held in each of the 9 Police  
5 Districts, beginning July 15, 2007.

6 To provide the roughly \$2 million needed to implement these and other initiatives to remedy  
7 the staffing shortage in the Police Department, it is necessary to use funds not encumbered for  
8 other purposes, such as those available in the Budget Stabilization Reserve or Rainy Day Fund.  
9 The Fund, established in 1993, is designed to provide General Fund budgetary flexibility needed  
10 to address funding shortfalls, and it had a balance of \$82 million at the close of the past fiscal  
11 year.

12 It is imperative that the Baltimore Police force be brought to an optimum staffing level  
13 immediately to protect the life and property of the citizens, visitors, and workers of the City – the  
14 violent crime crisis is the “rainy day” we’ve been saving our money to address.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
16 Body urges the Mayor to approve an emergency disbursement of \$2 million from the City’s  
17 “Rainy Day Fund” to begin an immediate and aggressive campaign to recruit new Baltimore  
18 City Police Officers to fill vacancies to enable the Baltimore City Police Department to fully  
19 implement the Commissioner’s Public Safety Strategy and Baltimore Against Illegal Guns  
20 initiative.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the  
22 Mayor, the Police Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.