

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 08-0010R**  
**(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Holton, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Curran,  
Cole, Conaway, Welch, Reisinger, Henry, Middleton, Branch, Kraft

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2008

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Report of the Mayor’s**  
3 **Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the Committee Co-Chairs and Members to share with the City  
5 Council the findings of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees on alternate  
6 revenue options and other viable measures that can be implemented to reduce Baltimore  
7 City’s property tax rate over the next several years.

8 **Recitals**

9 The Report of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees, released on  
10 December 5, 2007, is the work of a 26-member group of civic leaders who were appointed to  
11 review the City’s property tax rate and charged with developing options City officials might  
12 consider to reduce the City’s tax rate that, at the 2008 rate of \$2.268 per \$100 of assessed value,  
13 is 2 times that of neighboring subdivisions.

14 The Committee studied the current composition of the City’s major revenue sources and  
15 property tax structure, conferred with experts in municipal finance and property tax assessment,  
16 and utilized the proficiency and expertise of State and City officials and committee members in  
17 economic development, banking, commercial real estate, community leadership, law, and other  
18 fields.

19 The work product of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees is a menu of  
20 alternative revenue options and other measures that the City can employ to reduce the property  
21 tax significantly. The Committee recommends a broad selection of the measures be adopted to  
22 reduce the City property tax rate over the next several years by 32%, which equates to a \$0.72  
23 reduction per \$100 of assessed value.

24 It is imperative that the policy makers have a thorough understanding of the proposals that  
25 are meant to result in a reduction of such a magnitude as to ensure that the City’s property tax  
26 rate is no more than 50% higher than the average rate of the surrounding counties and will  
27 provide a “tremendous stimulus to growth and development in the City”.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
29 Committee Co-Chairs and Members are invited to share with the City Council the findings of the

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

**Council Bill 08-0010R**

1 Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees on alternate revenue options and other  
2 viable measures that can be implemented to reduce Baltimore City's property tax rate over the  
3 next several years.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Co-  
5 Chairs of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees, the Director of Finance, the  
6 Commissioner of Housing, the Director of Planning, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the  
7 City Council.