

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0195R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett, President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Cohen,
Pinkett, Sneed, Middleton, McCray, Henry, Bullock, Clarke, Schleifer, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2020

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Department of
Housing and Community Development, Police Department, Baltimore City State's Attorney's
Office, Sheriff's Office, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Missing Persons**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the
4 Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Department of Housing and Community
5 Development, the Baltimore Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, and the
6 Baltimore City Sheriff's Office to help the City Council understand the scope of the problem
7 of missing persons in Baltimore City and to explain how agencies work together to find
8 missing persons.

9 **Recitals**

10 January was National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. In 2018, 612,846
11 individuals were reported missing to the National Crime Information Center. Of those persons,
12 451,854 were reported as being under 21 years old. In 2019, the National Center for Missing and
13 Exploited Children ("NCMEC") responded to 10,719 reports of possible child sex trafficking.
14 There are over 400,000 children reported missing every year, and, unfortunately, Baltimore is one
15 of the top 10 cities with the most reported missing children. While some children are abducted,
16 the vast majority run away from home. It is estimated that children who run away from home are
17 contacted by at least one human trafficker within 48 hours of leaving home. Of the more than
18 26,000 runaways reported to the NCMEC last year, 1 in 6 were likely victims of sex trafficking.
19 People who are mentally ill can be especially vulnerable when they go missing or become
20 homeless - some are unable to care for themselves and may fall ill or worse without proper care.
21 The mentally ill that are without housing can easily become victims of violence and other sorts of
22 crime. The Baltimore City Council is interested in how City agencies are keeping our citizens
23 safe and finding our citizens if they go missing.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
25 Council invites representatives from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Mayor's Office
26 of Homeless Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore
27 Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department to
28 help the City Council understand the scope of the problem of missing persons in Baltimore City
29 and to explain how agencies work together to find missing persons.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Director of the Mayor's Office of
3 Homeless Services, the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community
4 Development, the Police Commissioner, the State's Attorney, the Sheriff, and the Mayor's
5 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.