

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0036R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Ramos, Bullock, Porter, Middleton, Glover, Conway, Torrence,
Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: April 5, 2021

Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance,
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Department of Housing and Community
Development, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Housing Authority of Baltimore City

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Avoiding an Eviction Crisis**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for a multi-faceted and comprehensive hearing on the looming
4 eviction crisis and what we can do to avoid it by: inviting the Executive Director of the
5 Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Acting Commissioner of the Baltimore
6 City Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Executive Director of the
7 Community Action Partnership, to report on the outcomes of the Eviction Prevention
8 Program and what more can be done; inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office of
9 Immigrant Affairs and the Esperanza Center to discuss the challenges renters who are
10 immigrants are facing and provide recommendations on additional protections; and inviting
11 representatives from the Public Justice Center and the Fair Housing Action Center of
12 Maryland to report on evictions thus far, outline the rights of tenants now and the rights
13 granted by new laws passed in the General Assembly and the City Council, and make
14 recommendations for additional protections.

15 **Recitals**

16 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an economic impact on employers and
17 employees;

18 **WHEREAS**, many renters were able to use the City's Eviction Prevention program to stay in
19 their homes;

20 **WHEREAS**, the Governor issued an eviction-related order lasting throughout the State of
21 Emergency, and the Centers for Disease Control also issued an eviction-related order that was
22 recently extended through June 30, 2021;

23 **WHEREAS**, these eviction orders do not offer protection to numerous renters especially in
24 instances when a landlords decline to renew a tenant's lease, and evictions for lease non-renewal
25 are up over 85% compared to last year;

26 **WHEREAS**, the City's eviction prevention program has a backlog of over 5,000 families who
27 have applied for rental assistance;

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, more than 3,000 Maryland tenant households have been evicted through court
2 proceedings during the pandemic, many more have been illegally evicted, and tens of thousands
3 of eviction cases are pending;

4 **WHEREAS**, the City Council and the General Assembly passed important legislation to assist
5 renters over the past few months; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Council finds that there is a looming eviction crisis and that it would be
7 prudent and beneficial to have a thorough, comprehensive discussion with various stakeholders
8 to discuss where we are and what we can do as City to best mitigate this crisis.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
10 Council calls for a multi-faceted and comprehensive hearing on the looming eviction crisis and
11 what we can do to avoid it by: inviting the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children
12 and Family Success, the Acting Commissioner of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and
13 Community Development, and the Executive Director of the Community Action Partnership, to
14 report on the outcomes of the Eviction Prevention Program and what more can be done; inviting
15 representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Esperanza Center to
16 discuss the challenges renters who are immigrants are facing and provide recommendations on
17 additional protections; and inviting representatives from the Public Justice Center and the Fair
18 Housing Action Center of Maryland to report on evictions thus far, outline the rights of tenants
19 now and the rights granted by new laws passed in the General Assembly and the City Council,
20 and make recommendations for additional protections.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
22 Acting Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, Executive Director of the
23 Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, Executive Director of the Community Action
24 Partnership, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Executive Director of
25 the Esperanza Center, the Executive Director of the Public Justice Center, the Executive Director
26 of the Fair Housing Action Center of Maryland, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the
27 Baltimore City Council.