

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0207R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Costello, Clarke, Scott, Kraft, Henry, President Young,

Councilmembers Holton, Middleton, Branch, Spector, Reisinger, Welch, Mosby, Curran

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2015

Assigned to: Recreation and Parks Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Planning, Department of Finance,
Department of Recreation and Parks

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Park and Open Space Policies**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting all interested government officials, institutional leaders, and citizens
4 to appear before it to discuss the status of all activities and planning underway in the city that
5 might contribute to either maintaining the current open space estate or improving and
6 expanding upon it, and to raise issues and questions about a governance paradigm for public
7 open space that will ensure that Baltimore has a great and expansive system of public open
8 spaces for the 21st century, one that is of no less vision and grandeur than that which the city
9 had at the beginning of the last century.

10 **Recitals**

11 All of the current park estate, approximately 6000 acres, is proposed for designation as open
12 space inside the new Transform Baltimore code, awaiting formal approval by the Baltimore City
13 Council. Several questions of policy, procedure and regulatory practice accompany this
14 designation, including how public open spaces will be created, managed, maintained, secured –
15 both for its assets and patrons – and prevented from being undermined by conversion to
16 incompatible uses or neglect.

17 Realizing a goal of creating and maintaining a great system of common and open spaces for
18 Baltimore will be require a complete, thorough, and accurate assessment of the status of open
19 spaces in the city as a foundation for a city-wide open space plan and for the governance of a
20 system of open spaces. An update of this sort is well overdue since the most recent version of
21 such a plan was completed and adopted in 1968.

22 This task is especially daunting because the city is a fully developed jurisdiction, and
23 schemes and plans for public open spaces must be realized as a part of the city’s redevelopment
24 processes.

25 Any new comprehensive open space plan must have universal interest and participation from
26 the citizenry because these spaces are great democratic enclaves, large and small, which should
27 be inviting and accessible to all, and fairly and equitably distributed throughout the city. It must
28 restore the public lands of the Olmsted legacy and create a whole new tranche of public spaces to
29 serve Baltimore’s citizens.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council invites all interested government officials, institutional leaders, and citizens to appear
3 before it to discuss the status of all activities and planning underway in the city that might
4 contribute to either maintaining the current open space estate or improving and expanding upon
5 it, and to raise issues and questions about a governance paradigm for public open space that will
6 ensure that Baltimore has a great and expansive system of public open spaces for the 21st
7 century, one that is of no less vision and grandeur than that which the city had at the beginning of
8 the last century.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
10 Director of Recreation & Parks, the Director of Planning, the Director of Finance , the President
11 & CEO of the Parks & People Foundation, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City
12 Council.