

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 15-0226R**  
**(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Branch, Costello, Stokes, Kraft, Holton,  
Middleton, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Scott, Mosby, Welch, Henry

Introduced and read first time: May 11, 2015

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of  
Finance, Department of Housing and Community Development, Health Department, Baltimore  
City Public School System, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Department of  
Planning

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Community - Economic Development in Struggling Neighborhoods**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Baltimore Development Corporation, Finance  
4 Department, Department of Housing and Community Development, Health Department,  
5 Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and Planning  
6 Department report to the City Council on the community - economic development tools  
7 available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City, how those tools are currently being  
8 used to develop and reinvest in neighborhoods, and how City agencies can further collaborate  
9 with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and create  
10 strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

11 **Recitals**

12 Over the last five years, Baltimore City has seen significant new investments and  
13 development; however it appears only a handful of neighborhoods have attracted the interest of  
14 investors and developers. This economic interest reflects the social, economic, and health  
15 disparities between Baltimore City neighborhoods. Distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City  
16 are isolated, struggling, and unable to leverage their human capital into community and economic  
17 development opportunities that could and should build stronger, healthier, sustainable  
18 neighborhoods.

19 Residents in distressed neighborhoods concurrently struggle with high unemployment rates,  
20 high crime rates, health disparities, inadequate early child care and education, and economic  
21 insecurity. These neighborhoods face unaffordable, inconsistent, or limited access to basic goods  
22 and services. Residents in high-poverty neighborhoods are unable to leverage assets to provide a  
23 basis for community and economic growth and improvement.

24 The question facing the City of Baltimore is how to support the transformation of distressed  
25 neighborhoods into choice neighborhoods of opportunity. How can the City of Baltimore  
26 support the development of distressed neighborhoods into neighborhoods with high-quality, safe,  
27 and affordable housing; thriving commercial amenities that provide access to affordable goods  
28 and services; accessible parks and recreational spaces; and high-quality schools?

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

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1 The City of Baltimore currently offers numerous programs and services that provide critical  
2 support to residents of distressed neighborhoods. These programs range across various agencies  
3 and departments and provide assistance for fundamental services such as education, child care,  
4 workforce training, and health care.

5 The City Council calls on agencies to report on current efforts to help struggling and  
6 distressed neighborhoods and to identify ways to integrate existing programs and identify  
7 opportunities for new programs that will develop the existing, underutilized human capital,  
8 leverage existing assets, and build strong, sustainable neighborhoods.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
10 Council requests that the Baltimore Development Corporation, Finance Department, Department  
11 of Housing and Community Development, Health Department, Baltimore City Public Schools,  
12 Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and Planning Department report to it on the  
13 community - economic development tools available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore  
14 City, how those tools are currently being used to develop and reinvest in neighborhoods, and how  
15 City agencies can further collaborate with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive  
16 community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

17 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President &  
18 CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Director of Finance, the Housing  
19 Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the  
20 Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Director of Planning, and the  
21 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.