

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0280R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Curran, Henry, Middleton, Cole, Branch, Holton, Welch,
Spector, Conaway, Stokes, Clarke, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: May 9, 2011

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Increases to Water, Sewer, and Miscellaneous Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Department of Public Works to report to the Council on the
4 proposed water, sewer, and miscellaneous fee increases scheduled to take effect on May 19,
5 2011; to provide the Council with detailed information regarding the need for the proposed
6 increases, including infrastructure needs and federal mandates; to describe any other funding
7 sources that were considered by the Department to address these needs; to list the
8 opportunities that were given for public comment; and to describe assistance available to
9 those households for whom these increases would create financial hardship.

10 **Recitals**

11 On April 13, 2011, the Board of Estimates approved the scheduling of a public hearing for
12 the proposed increases to the water and sewer rates. The 9% increase would result in \$88 more
13 per year being paid by the average family of four. Liens may be placed on homes with unpaid
14 water bills, and in many cases are enforceable through the sale of the affected properties.

15 This will be the third consecutive year that these rates will be increased, and DPW officials
16 have stated publicly that increases are expected to continue and may be higher in the coming
17 years.

18 A public hearing on these rate increases is scheduled for 9am on May 18, 2011. As the rate
19 increases would go into effect on the following day, the timing of this hearing leaves little
20 opportunity for the concerns expressed at this hearing to be incorporated into the Department's
21 actions.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
23 Director of the Department of Public Works is requested to report to the Council on the proposed
24 water, sewer, and miscellaneous fee increases scheduled to take effect on May 19, 2011; to
25 provide the Council with detailed information regarding the need for the proposed increases,
26 including infrastructure needs and federal mandates; to describe any other funding sources that
27 were considered by the Department to address these needs; to list the opportunities that were
28 given for public comment; and to describe assistance available to those households for whom
29 these increases would create financial hardship.

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 Public Works, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.