

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0285R
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: May 9, 2011

Assigned to: Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of
Transportation, Department of Public Works, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Green Spaces**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the
4 Director of the Department of Transportation, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, and the
5 Chief, Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total
6 of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and to
7 develop a single City bureau, to be under the authority of the Director of the Department of
8 Recreation and Parks with the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots.

9 **Recitals**

10 According to the 2010 annual report of the Office of Sustainability, “At the end of 2010,
11 roughly 7,000 vacant or abandoned properties were titled to the Mayor and City Council, and
12 over half of these, 4000 were vacant lots.” Furthermore, the Department of Housing and
13 Community Development possesses ownership of approximately an additional 4,000 lots. With
14 the total number of vacant City-owned lots hovering around 8,000, a single bureau would
15 increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of this City service.

16 In 2010, 4,000 lots owned by the Mayor and City Council, which are managed by the
17 Department of Housing and Community Development, averaged \$760 per lot for 3 grass cutting
18 seasons and \$1,015 per lot for annual trash and debris removal, totaling a little over \$7,000,000
19 for total average maintenance cost for all the lots. The overview for Fiscal Year 2012 projects a
20 \$65,000,000 shortfall.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
22 Body requests the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the
23 Department of Transportation, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, and the Chief, Bureau of
24 Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service
25 for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and to develop a single City
26 bureau, to be under the authority of the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks with
27 the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots.

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
29 Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Head

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

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1 of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Chief, Bureau of Budget and Management Research, and the
2 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.