

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0155R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Holton and President Young, Councilmembers Stokes, Mosby,
Scott, Henry, Middleton, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Branch, Cole, Curran, Kraft

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2014

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: April 7, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 **Informational Hearing – The Mayor’s Office of Human Services’ Efforts to Address**
2 **Homelessness in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Human Services to
4 appear before the Council to update it on the City’s efforts to make homelessness a rare and
5 brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where improvements can be made in best
6 utilizing the City’s partnerships and resources to meet this goal.

7 **Recitals**

8 Throughout America, and here at home in Baltimore, homelessness remains a serious
9 problem that often does not get the attention and resources that it deserves. Baltimore City is
10 midway through an ambitious 10 year plan to end homelessness, and City government continues
11 to work to make homelessness a rare and brief experience.

12 In recent years, the Mayor’s Office of Human Services (MOHS) has been the City agency
13 tasked with leading the City’s efforts to achieve this goal. MOHS must work in partnership with
14 many other government agencies on the local, State, and Federal levels, as well as with private
15 service providers, in order to effectively address the many issues that must be considered by any
16 attempt to combat homelessness.

17 Since homelessness is a persistent problem that is too often ignored, it is important that the
18 Council make every effort to keep it at the forefront of decision makers minds. With too few
19 resources allocated to this complicated issue, it is vitally important to ensure that all of those
20 resources are being employed in the most effective way possible.

21 Homelessness is a problem that requires constant engagement, cooperative efforts amongst
22 many stakeholders, and a focused approach to making use of scant resources where they can do
23 the most good. Periodic discussions about how well the City’s approach meets these principles,
24 and where improvements can be made, are essential if Baltimore is ever to achieve its goal of
25 making homelessness a rare and brief experience.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
27 Council calls on representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Human Services to appear before it
28 to update the Council on the City’s efforts to make homelessness a rare and brief experience in

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

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1 Baltimore, and to discuss where improvements can be made in best utilizing the City's
2 partnerships and resources to meet this goal.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Director of the Mayor's Office of Human Services, the Director of MOHS's Homeless Services
5 Program, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.