

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0046R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Henry, Costello, Schleifer, Pinkett, Dorsey, Burnett,
Bullock, Cohen, Middleton, Sneed, Clarke, Reisinger, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: September 18, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for State Action – Police Redistricting**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Baltimore City Delegation to the 2018 Maryland General
4 Assembly to secure enactment of legislation requiring that the Baltimore City Police
5 Department review and adjust police district boundaries after the information from each
6 decennial census becomes available to ensure that Baltimore’s security resources are
7 allocated as efficiently as possible.

8 **Recitals**

9 Baltimore City’s Police Department divides the 86 square miles under its jurisdiction into 9
10 police districts of varying size for administrative purposes. Typically, each of the 9 districts is
11 staffed with roughly the same number of officers.

12 District boundaries have remained unchanged for years despite significant changes in both
13 population numbers and distribution since the present boundaries were adopted, as well as
14 changes in the security needs of various neighborhoods over this timespan. Today, the districts
15 vary significantly in area, population, and number of calls for services. A study of 2012 call for
16 service data, for instance, found that the least active district had only 60% as many calls for
17 service as the most active district.

18 Without periodic review and revision of the district boundaries it is likely that changing
19 circumstances will lead to increasingly inefficient allocations of police resources. In order to
20 avoid this, it is important to mandate that changes be considered at regular intervals.

21 By law, City Council districts need to be reexamined and realigned every 10 years when new
22 census results become available. Police districts should be adjusted at this time as well, so that
23 they can take advantage of the most up to date information available on population and service
24 call volume changes.

25 In the last session of the General Assembly legislation drafted with the support of Baltimore’s
26 Police Commissioner on this topic passed the House unanimously but did not receive a vote in
27 Senate. This momentum needs to be built off of in the coming session so that this critical
28 realignment can finally take place.

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

Council Bill 17-0046R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council calls on the Baltimore City Delegation to the 2018 Maryland General Assembly to
3 secure enactment of legislation requiring that the Baltimore City Police Department review and
4 adjust police district boundaries after the information from each decennial census becomes
5 available to ensure that Baltimore’s security resources are allocated as efficiently as possible.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
7 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
8 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
9 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.