

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0070R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers McCray, Bullock, Middleton, Cohen, Burnett, Ramos, Porter,  
Glover, Conway

Introduced and read first time: October 4, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted:

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**1                    Informational Hearing - Soil Conservation in Baltimore City**

2                    FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of  
3                    Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability, Department of  
4                    Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the  
5                    Environmental Control Board to address their current roles in soil conservation and urban  
6                    agriculture and servicing Baltimore City's farmers.

**7                    Recitals**

8                    Urban agriculture is growing exponentially across the country, especially within Baltimore  
9                    City. It is a multifaceted approach to enhancing sustainability and benefitting our local  
10                    environment. Urban agriculture ranges from home and community gardens to controlled  
11                    environmental agriculture and aquaculture; from beekeeping to composting; from cultivating  
12                    fresh produce to educating the community on farm-to-table and sustainability practices. It  
13                    actively helps our communities fight against the looming impacts of climate change and food  
14                    insecurity. It has also proven to be a perfect medium for bringing the members of our  
15                    communities closer and empowering our constituents to be the changemakers of tomorrow, who  
16                    will create a greener future. From educational workshops to community grants, many of our City  
17                    agencies have programs and initiatives positioned to help our urban farmers execute this critical  
18                    work.

19                    The heart of soil conservation is combating soil erosion. Urban agriculture is dependent on  
20                    soil conservation. Keeping our soil healthy and nutrient dense is critical to preserving our  
21                    environment and empowering our trees, plants, and crops to flourish. Article 7 of the Baltimore  
22                    City Code commits the Department of Public Works to helping establish concept plans to combat  
23                    soil erosion and employ sediment control. One of the most well-known soil conservation  
24                    techniques is planting trees. The Department of Recreation and Parks has been committed to  
25                    doing this through their partnership with TreeBaltimore, planting thousands of new trees  
26                    annually.

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

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1 From Bliss Gardens in Northeast Baltimore to Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm in  
2 Northwest Baltimore, we continue to see the innovation and determination of our urban farmers.  
3 As Baltimore City continues to take meaningful steps towards battling climate change and  
4 uplifting urban agriculture, we need a better understanding of our City agencies' current roles in  
5 soil conservation.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
7 Council of invites representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Public  
8 Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability, Department of Housing  
9 and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Control  
10 Board to address their current roles in soil conservation and urban agriculture and servicing  
11 Baltimore City's farmers.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
13 Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the  
14 Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Office of Sustainability,  
15 the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the  
16 Department of Transportation, the Director of the Environmental Control Board, and the Mayor's  
17 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.