

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0025R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Henry, Branch, Conaway, Reisinger, Welch, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2008

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Fire Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Fire Department Recruitment Policies**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the acting Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department brief
4 the Council on the current hiring processes and recruiting programs the department is
5 utilizing to bring new firefighters onto the force, and the changes, if any, that have taken
6 place in the recruitment qualifications for Fire Department personnel over the last few years.

7 **Recitals**

8 The Baltimore City Fire Department is an agency that is constantly recruiting new members.
9 According to Department literature, the minimum requirements to become a Firefighter or
10 Paramedic Apprentice are that a person must be a high school graduate or in possession of a
11 GED certificate; must be 18 years of age; must complete a written exam, oral interview, and a
12 background investigation; and must undergo a complete medical evaluation and drug screening.

13 The Baltimore City Fire Department Firefighter Paramedic Apprenticeship Program offers
14 recruits an intensive 3-year training program that combines structured classroom learning with
15 real life on the job training. Candidates selected for the program attend a 21-week "Fire School"
16 that trains and certifies them in courses such as Emergency Medical Technician Basic,
17 Firefighter I and II among others.

18 Upon successful completion of Fire School, recruits are assigned to fire suppression duties
19 within the Department. Over the next 2.5 years, members will apply the principles and practices
20 they have learned in recruit training. While assigned to fire suppression duties, members begin a
21 10-month training program that culminates in their being licenced as a Maryland Cardiac Rescue
22 Technician Intermediate. Program members receive 23 college credits for successfully
23 completing the program.

24 This informational hearing will provide the Council with information on the current
25 programs that the Baltimore City Fire Department is utilizing to bring new recruits into the
26 Department. It is programs like the Fire School Program that will help bring the Baltimore City
27 Fire Department into the future and provide the best possible training programs for its recruits.
28 This hearing will allow the Department to update the Council on its ongoing work, as well as
29 provide an opportunity to get the word out to constituents that these programs are available to
30 them. Hopefully with everyone properly informed, the Fire Department can work to benefit the

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

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1 Department and the citizens of Baltimore City, as they seek out the next generation of brave and
2 bright individuals who will help to keep our City safe for years to come.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
4 acting Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department is requested to brief the Council on the
5 current hiring processes and recruiting programs the Department is utilizing to bring new
6 firefighters onto the force, and the changes, if any, that have taken place in the recruitment
7 qualifications for Fire Department personnel over the last few years.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
10 Council.