

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0161R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Kraft, Stokes, Mosby, Cole, Holton, Spector, Clarke,
Middleton, Branch, Scott, President Young, Councilmembers Curran, Reisinger
Introduced and read first time: March 24, 2014
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: November 17, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 **Baltimore City’s Current and Future Solar and Other Renewable Energy Plans**

2 FOR the purpose of reiterating the Council’s support for the City’s stated policy of promoting the
3 use of solar and other renewable energy and inviting representatives from the agencies best
4 positioned to implement that policy to appear before it to discuss Baltimore’s current and
5 future solar and other renewable energy plans.

6 **Recitals**

7 As part of the Sustainability Plan adopted by the Council in March of 2009, Baltimore City
8 has a stated policy of promoting the use of solar and other renewable energy sources. However,
9 it is not clear what steps the City is currently taking to put this policy into effect to maximize the
10 generation of renewable energy within Baltimore.

11 The time is ripe to comprehensively review the City’s approach to renewable energy because
12 changing technology, together with a number of once-in-a-lifetime efforts currently underway in
13 seemingly unrelated areas, present opportunities to significantly increase renewable energy
14 generation in Baltimore. It is important that we don’t miss out on these opportunities to reshape
15 Baltimore’s energy landscape for the better.

16 The current comprehensive rewrite of the City’s Zoning Code represents a once-in-a-
17 generation chance to examine how well the City’s current land use laws encourage large or small
18 scale renewable energy generation. As just one example, the City should be acting to encourage
19 people to establish rooftop and carport solar panels, the latter of which are high enough that cars
20 are able to park underneath and be protected from the elements, and it is not clear whether the
21 current laws provide a supportive enough structure for this activity or if changes should be made.
22 It’s important to establish a clear picture of the legal obstacles to renewable energy so that
23 appropriate changes can be made to overcome these obstacles, and the broader structure of the
24 City’s Zoning Code can be designed to reflect renewable energy concerns.

25 Similarly, the massive billion dollar school construction and rehabilitation project kicking off
26 shortly represents an opportunity to re-imagine the school system’s use of renewable energy. If

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

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1 buildings are planned from the ground up to take advantage of the opportunities that renewable
2 energy generation can provide for greener, more efficient and self-sufficient structures, a real
3 impact can be made on the environment, future school energy costs, and students' awareness of
4 renewable energy.

5 Beyond these significant opportunities, it is important to periodically review the City's efforts
6 to promote renewable energy and to compare these efforts to the whole gamut of possibilities that
7 steadily advancing renewable energy technology continues to open up. In order to ensure that the
8 City's commitment to expanding renewable energy use goes beyond words and has the widest
9 possible impact, the full range of policies that can encourage or discourage renewable energy use
10 needs to be constantly reexamined.

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
12 Council reiterates its support for the City's stated policy of promoting the use of solar and other
13 renewable energy and invites representatives from the agencies best positioned to implement that
14 policy to appear before it to discuss Baltimore's current and future solar and other renewable
15 energy plans.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
17 Director of General Services, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, the CEO of Baltimore
18 Public Schools, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.