

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0137R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Harris, President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Curran, Kraft, Mitchell, Holton, Young, Reisinger, Clarke, Branch, Rawlings Blake, Conaway, Welch, Spector
Introduced and adopted: February 6, 2006

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

In Support of State Legislation – (SB 242/HB 181) – Sex Offenders - Electronic Tracking and Movement Restrictions - Penalties for Violating Registration Requirements

FOR the purpose of expressing support for this Baltimore City Administration legislation that, in part, seeks to require a specified defendant, as a condition of probation, to register for electronic tracking by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, limits the locations to which the trackee may travel, and specifies penalties for tampering with the electronic tracking device; requesting the Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006 Maryland General Assembly to work for passage of the measure; urging the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary Committees to give the legislative a favorable report; and imploring the Governor to sign the measure into law should it pass both Houses of the Legislature.

Recitals

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, there are 549,083 registered sex offenders in the United States. These offenders pose an enormous challenge for policy makers: they evoke unparalleled fear among constituents; their offenses are associated with a great risk of psychological harm; and most of their victims are children and youth. The Center contends that as policy makers address the issue of sex offenders, they are confronted with some basic realities.

The realities confronting policy makers include the fact that: (1) Most sex offenders are not in prison, and those who are tend to serve limited sentences; (2) Most sex offenders are largely unknown to people in the community; (3) Sex offenders have a high risk of re-offending; and (4) While community supervision and oversight is widely recognized as essential, the system for providing such supervision is overwhelmed.

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections reports that, as of the end of January 2006, there are 1,070 sex offenders in Baltimore City. Of this number, 765 are child sex offenders, and 275 are sexually violent sex offenders. The Maryland Attorney General acknowledges that under the State’s current law, sex offenders are released from parole or probation regardless of whether or not they are still dangerous. The need for measures to provide means of extended parole supervision for the most dangerous violent and child sex offenders is exigent.

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

1 The increased mobility of our society has led to “lost” sex offenders, those who fail to
2 comply with registration duties yet remain undetected because of authorities’ inability to track
3 their whereabouts. A conservative number of “lost” sex offenders is at least 100,000 nationwide.
4 In Maryland, the whereabouts of 15% of the 4330 convicted and released sex offenders on the
5 sex offender registry was unknown as of November 2005.

6 Passage of this legislation will protect the most defenseless among us by addressing the issue
7 of “lost” sex offenders. SB242/HB181 will provide for 24 hour, 7 day a week electronic
8 tracking of convicted sexual predators and, quite appropriately, require them to pay for the
9 tracking and associated costs if they are able to do so.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
11 Body supports this Baltimore City Administration legislation that, in part, seeks to require a
12 specified defendant, as a condition of probation, to register for electronic tracking by the
13 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, limits the locations to which the trackee
14 may travel, and specifies penalties for tampering with the electronic tracking device; requests the
15 Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006 Maryland
16 General Assembly to work for passage of the measure; urges the Honorable Chairs and Members
17 of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary Committees to give the legislative a
18 favorable report; and implores the Governor to sign the measure into law should it pass both
19 Houses of the Legislature.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate
21 Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary Committees are requested to include this
22 communication in the deliberations on the legislation and as part of the Committee record.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
24 Mayor, the Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006
25 Maryland General Assembly, the Chairs and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and
26 House Judiciary Committees, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of State Relations;
27 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.