

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0146R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, D’Adamo, Kraft, Middleton, Young, Clarke, Welch,  
Henry, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Curran, Holton, Branch, Spector,  
Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: September 14, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing - Baltimore City Auxiliary Police Unit**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore Police Commissioner and the Coordinator of the  
4 Auxiliary Police Unit to report to the City Council on the historic and current use of  
5 Auxiliary Police in Baltimore City, requirements for service, training program components,  
6 and any plans for expansion in size and deployment of the Unit.

7 **Recitals**

8 The Reserve Police Officers Association, a leading association for reserve, auxiliary, and  
9 special law enforcement officers, reports that reserve law enforcement has been in existence  
10 before the concept of modern policing took hold in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1940s,  
11 many communities across the United States, including Baltimore City, created volunteer  
12 auxiliary police units to provide law enforcement services to communities that had lost  
13 manpower to the military and needed extra protection during the war.

14 The Public Local Laws provide for the creation of Baltimore City’s Auxiliary Police Force:  
15 “to be used only to render assistance to the Police Department in service functions including, but  
16 not limited to, traffic, communications and clerical duties. The purpose of the Auxiliary Police  
17 Force is to relieve the regular police personnel for law enforcement duties.” The unit has  
18 consistently comprised 40 volunteer members who assist the Baltimore Police Department  
19 mainly in crowd control at sporting and other special events.

20 As is evidenced by the Association, “the future of reserve law enforcement is one of growth.  
21 Across the U.S. and the world, law enforcement agencies are looking to reserve law enforcement  
22 to supplement, but not replace, career police services”. Los Angeles, California, Phoenix,  
23 Arizona, and Dallas, Texas are in the forefront of the movement. In Los Angeles, Reserve Unit  
24 activities include crosswalk enforcement, registration enforcement, front licence plate  
25 enforcement, vehicle lighting enforcement, and vehicle impound assignment.

26 In Phoenix, officers in the Reserve Division receive academy training, are issued police  
27 equipment, including firearms, are paid for court time, and receive workers’ compensation  
28 insurance. These officers, who are required to work at least 16 hours a month but often  
29 contribute much more time, are given the opportunity for advancement. Following a good

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

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1 performance as a patrol officer and the successful completion of the requisite selection  
2 processes, reserve officers may advance to detective or other specialty positions such as  
3 motorcycle officer, training officer, or helicopter pilot.

4 For over 50 years, the Dallas Police Reserve Battalion has worked as an integral part of the  
5 Dallas Police Department. Started as a group of citizens who assisted officers, today it has  
6 evolved into a group of men and women who work in the same capacity as full-time officers.  
7 The Reserve Officers must go through a year of training and maintain the same Texas Basic  
8 Peace Officers License as full-time officers. The Dallas Police Department invests over \$2,000  
9 dollars on each recruit and expects a good faith commitment of at least 2 years of service.

10 As the fight against crime places on sworn officers increased demands, driven by more  
11 sophisticated and better armed criminals, and as the urgency of maintaining homeland security  
12 mounts, the role of the Auxiliary Police needs to be revisited. It needs to be determined if  
13 Baltimore's Auxiliary Police Force is being utilized to its fullest potential in serving and  
14 protecting the citizens of Baltimore.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
16 Baltimore Police Commissioner and the Coordinator of the Auxiliary Police Unit are requested  
17 to report to the City Council on the historic and current use of Auxiliary Police in Baltimore  
18 City, requirements for service, training program components, and any plans for expansion in size  
19 and deployment of the Unit.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
21 Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Coordinator of the Auxiliary Police Unit, and the Mayor's  
22 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.