

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 08-0054R  
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: June 16, 2008

Assigned to: Public Health and Safety Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Baltimore City Police Department - Legal Expenses**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the total  
4 amount of City funds used in the last two fiscal years for legal and associated services to  
5 defend employees of the Department against charges brought against individual officers, the  
6 Department, or the City by civilians or departmental personnel.

7 **Recitals**

8 Each year dozens of lawsuits are filed against the Baltimore City Police Department. Some  
9 are filed against individual officers, while others are filed against the Department or Baltimore  
10 City itself. There are also lawsuits filed by civilians or departmental personnel to defend. While  
11 the Baltimore City Police Department has its own legal staff, more often than not, the staff is not  
12 the only one handling the task of defending Baltimore City Police Officers. If Baltimore City is  
13 named separately in the suit, then the Baltimore City Law Department may also be called upon  
14 to defend the City.

15 These lawsuits can often last any number of years and cost in the millions of dollars to  
16 defend. In recent history, there have been numerous lawsuits filed as class actions against the  
17 Police Department and the City in which the City has needed to hire outside counsel to help  
18 defend itself. This not only adds to the total cost of litigation, but could easily create budget  
19 issues for the City for future years. Even if the City wins the lawsuit, legal fees over a number of  
20 years add up very quickly.

21 The question as to the amount of money the City has had to spend in order to defend against  
22 these suits is one that needs to be answered. With the City budget already stretched thin, future  
23 lawsuits against the Police Department that the City must pay to defend could put the City in  
24 jeopardy, and knowing how much was spent over the last 2 years could help the Finance  
25 Department determine what types of expenditures will be needed to defend these lawsuits in  
26 years to come.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
28 Body requests the Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the total amount of City

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

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1 funds used in the last two fiscal years for legal and associated services to defend employees of  
2 the Department against charges brought against individual officers, the Department, or the City  
3 by civilians or departmental personnel.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
5 Director of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Council.