

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0308R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Kraft, Harris, Young,
Holton, Conaway, Crider, Reisinger, Welch, Middleton, Clarke, Spector, Mitchell, Curran
Introduced and read first time: June 11, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Housing and Community Development,
Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative – Community Restoration Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development and
4 the President of Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., to cooperatively develop a Community
5 Restoration Grant Program to make funds immediately available to Healthy Neighborhoods
6 Rehabilitation Loan recipients to support increased opportunities for renovation of owner-
7 occupied properties in Healthy Neighborhoods and to promote maintaining and increasing
8 the City's supply of affordable housing.

9 **Recitals**

10 The City of Baltimore is promoting strategic investment in strong but undervalued
11 neighborhoods including Belair Edison, Charles Village, Ednor Gardens/Lakeside, Garwyn
12 Oaks/Hanlon, Midtown, Neighborhoods of Greater Lauraville, Patterson Park, Reservoir Hill,
13 Southeast Baltimore, and Greater Mondawin. The Community Restoration Grant Program will
14 provide additional incentives to increase the stability and livability of these neighborhoods,
15 including special purchase-rehab mortgages and home improvement loans. These incentives will
16 be made available to persons purchasing and rehabilitating properties within these
17 neighborhoods.

18 The Office of Home Ownership, within the Department of Housing, promotes Healthy
19 Neighborhoods Initiatives. Its programs, available to all potential homeowners for buying or
20 rehabilitating assistance, are not only a sound investment that helps build personal wealth and
21 improve lifestyles, but also demonstrate community pride and provide continued assurance that
22 Baltimore's neighborhoods remain strong. The Community Restoration Grant Program will
23 partner with the Healthy Neighborhoods Loan Program to more effectively provide the
24 following types of loans to borrowers who meet standard secondary market credit standards:

- 25 • A PURCHASE/REHAB loan available to people purchasing homes;
- 26 • A REFINANCE/REHAB loan for more substantial improvements that will require
27 refinancing of the existing first mortgage on the homes available to homeowners on;
28 and

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

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- A HOME IMPROVEMENT loan of up to \$40,000 available to homeowners within the Healthy Neighborhoods.

The Community Restoration Grant Program (CRGP) will act to supplement the Healthy Neighborhoods Rehabilitation Loan Program. It will make additional resources readily available to working families and individuals seeking to make their homes more livable. Persons who are approved for a Healthy Neighborhoods Rehabilitation Loan between \$1,000 and \$2,999 are eligible for a grant of \$1,000; for rehabilitation loans of \$3,000 or more, the grant will be equal to the amount of the loan, not to exceed the maximum grant of \$10,000.

The Commissioner of Housing and Community Development will promulgate regulations to assure an equitable distribution of grant funds from the CRGP, and Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. will provide hands-on guidance to recipients. This partnership will ensure that the CRGP will be a valuable addition to the array of community improvement tools Baltimore is implementing in the concentrated effort to invest where Baltimore lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development and the President of Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., are requested to cooperatively develop a Community Restoration Grant Program to make funds immediately available to Healthy Neighborhoods Rehabilitation Loan recipients to support increased opportunities for renovation of owner-occupied properties in Healthy Neighborhoods and to promote maintaining and increasing the City's supply of affordable housing.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, the President of Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.