

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0192R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Branch, Reisinger, Henry, Holton, Welch,
Stokes, Kraft, Middleton, Curran

Introduced and read first time: October 6, 2014

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Transportation, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Charm City Circulator**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Departments of Finance and
4 Transportation to appear before the Council to report on the costs and ridership numbers for
5 the Charm City Circulator, as well as whether or not the revenue sources originally intended
6 to pay for Circulator operations have proven to be sufficient; and to discuss the contents of
7 the RFP to operate the Circulator in future years, including the possibility of requiring a \$1
8 fare for each Circulator ride.

9 **Recitals**

10 Now in its 5th year of service, the Charm City Circulator continues to be an important transit
11 option for many Baltimoreans and visitors to our city, as its more than 10,000 daily riders can
12 attest. However, with the current operating contract for the Circulator expiring at year's end,
13 now is an appropriate time to reexamine whether the current model being used for the Circulator
14 continues to make sense for Baltimore.

15 As a starting point, it is important to make firm data about the costs and benefits of operating
16 the Circulator, including ridership numbers, publically available. A real accounting of the
17 funding sources for the Circulator, especially an analysis of whether or not the funding sources
18 originally designated for it have proven sufficient, is also needed for any evaluation of the
19 Circulator's current operating model.

20 The idea of adding a \$1 per trip fare for the Circulator should also be included in any
21 discussion about its future. Charging this nominal fee for each of the millions of Circulator rides
22 could make the service much more sustainable and provide funding for not only the Circulator
23 but potentially other City priorities such as recreation and parks programs. It could also help to
24 address concerns about the inappropriate use of the Circulator by riders without any genuine
25 destination that detracts from this service's intended purposes.

26 As the City prepares to enter into a new operating contract for the Circulator, all options,
27 including the installation of fare boxes, need to be on the table. This opportunity to more fully
28 align the Circulator's operations with the City's needs should not be allowed to pass without real
29 discussion.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
2 Council calls on representatives from the Departments of Finance and Transportation to appear
3 before it to report on the costs and ridership numbers for the Charm City Circulator, as well as
4 whether or not the revenue sources originally intended to pay for Circulator operations have
5 proven to be sufficient; and to discuss the contents of the RFP to operate the Circulator in future
6 years, including the possibility of requiring a \$1 fare for each Circulator ride.

7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
8 Director of Transportation, the Director of Finance, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the
9 City Council.