

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 10-0202R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, Holton, D’Adamo, President Young, Councilmembers
Henry, Middleton, Cole, Conaway, Kraft
Introduced and read first time: April 19, 2010
Assigned to: Recreation and Parks Subcommittee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: June 14, 2010

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**1 Informational Hearing – Fiscal 2011 - Elimination of Senior Citizens Division,
2 Department of Recreation and Parks**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and
4 Parks and the Director of the Senior Citizens Division to report to the City Council on the
5 Fiscal 2011 preliminary budget plan to eliminate the Senior Citizens Division, the number of
6 seniors who participate in the programs and services provided by the Division, and plans to
7 find alternatives to replace the programs and services that will be discontinued.

8 Recitals

9 The Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Budget Plan includes the elimination of Program 651 – .
10 Recreation for Seniors in the Department of Recreation and Parks: “The Senior Citizens Division
11 (SCD) offers recreational programs and events for Baltimore’s adults, ages 50 and older. The
12 Division provides support and assistance to 94 golden age clubs located throughout Baltimore
13 City. The Fiscal 2011 budget reductions will result in the elimination of all programs and
14 services provided to Senior Citizens, which cost \$349,000 in Fiscal 2010. The department can
15 continue self-supporting activities. Golden Age clubs and other partners will need to fill the
16 gaps”.

17 While saving a relatively small amount of money in Baltimore City government’s time of
18 fiscal constraint, the elimination of the program will adversely impact thousands of seniors
19 across Baltimore who have relied on the services the Division has supported since the 1960's.
20 The programs are highly regarded, and special events draw crowds in the hundreds and
21 sometimes the thousands, from all 14 senior centers, 56 Eating Together nutrition sites, 94
22 golden age clubs, numerous senior apartment buildings, and faith based senior organizations
23 throughout Baltimore City.

24 The Senior Division oversees a network of golden age clubs that come together for fun and
25 fellowship all over the City, meeting in recreation centers, senior housing, eating together sites,
26 churches, and fraternal sites. A variety of entertainers, crafts and exercise instructors, and
27 intergenerational programmers bring activities to these groups. Striving to make Baltimore a
28 “senior friendly” city that keeps older taxpayers in place, the SCD collaborates with the
29 Commission on Aging, the Health Department, local medical centers, and other aging network
30 partners to provide quality leisure time and cultural opportunities to seniors.

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

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1 SCD’s city-wide recreational programs and services are not facility bound and reach more
2 seniors across the City than any other senior services. The more than 150 senior groups that
3 participate include many that do not frequent senior centers but are instead anchored in their
4 church ministry or fraternal and neighborhood organizations. The recently released 2010
5 Calender of Events elicited many “sign-me-up” calls, and some events that can accommodate
6 300+ seniors are almost full.

7 The Golden Express, the SCD’s 36 passenger “senior friendly” wheelchair bus, is well-
8 utilized by senior groups across Baltimore for shopping and recreational outings. Safe and
9 reliable transportation is very important to seniors, and, over the past 10 years, bus trips have
10 generated \$14,500 annually to supplement senior recreational programs.

11 Just as the Golden Express provides invaluable transportation services to our seniors, we
12 must continue to provide the invaluable social opportunities that play an important part in
13 ensuring that our Baltimore seniors thoroughly enjoy their “golden years.”

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
15 Director of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Director of the
16 Senior Citizens Division are requested to report to the City Council on the Fiscal 2011
17 preliminary budget plan to eliminate the Senior Citizens Division, the number of seniors who
18 participate in the programs and services provided by the Division, and plans to find alternatives
19 to replace the programs and services that will be discontinued.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
21 Director of Recreation and Parks, the Director, Senior Citizen’s Division of Recreation and
22 Parks, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.