

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0258R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Harris, Kraft, Holton, Mitchell, Conaway, Clarke, Branch,
Welch

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 2007

Assigned to: Public Safety Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Fire Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Baltimore Fire Academy – Training Safety**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Chief of Fire and the Chief Safety Officer of the Baltimore
4 Fire Department and the Director of Training of the Baltimore Fire Academy to address the
5 City Council on the Academy’s level of compliance with national standards for training
6 supervision, safety protocol, and professional instruction; to present a detailed report on
7 areas of non-compliance; and to submit a comprehensive report on procedures to be adopted
8 to attain compliance and to ensure the safety of firefighter recruits.

9 **Recitals**

10 The recent death of a 29-year-old city Fire Department recruit during a training exercise as
11 she tried to extinguish a blaze set by instructors in a vacant three-story row house in Southwest
12 Baltimore brought to light what appear to be serious lapses in safety procedures in the training
13 program of the Baltimore Fire Academy.

14 This tragic incident calls into question the practice of using “live burns” – fires set by
15 instructors in vacant buildings off-campus – as a way to give recruits “real” experience in putting
16 out blazes, particularly when the exercises are not conducted in compliance with national
17 regulations governing firefighter training.

18 Fire union officials are reportedly voicing concerns that this as well as other training
19 exercises are not being carried out in compliance with standards set by the National Fire
20 Protection Association – deviating from at least 2 of 25 requirements listed in national
21 regulations that govern the way training fires are set and fought.

22 Public Safety personnel provide an invaluable service in protecting the citizens of Baltimore
23 City – ensuring their safety as they train to preform this unselfish service is the very least we can
24 do for the men and women who put their lives at risk each time they report for duty.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the Chief
26 of Fire and the Chief Safety Officer of the Baltimore Fire Department and the Director of
27 Training of the Baltimore Fire Academy are requested to address the City Council on the
28 Academy’s level of compliance with national standards for training supervision, safety protocol,
29 and professional instruction; to present a detailed report on areas of non-compliance; and to

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

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1 submit a comprehensive report on procedures to be adopted to attain compliance and to insure
2 the safety of firefighter recruits.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Chief of Fire and the Chief Safety Officer of the Baltimore Fire Department, the Director of
5 Training of the Baltimore Fire Academy, the President of the Baltimore Fire Officers
6 Association, the President of the Baltimore Fire Fighters Union, the President of the Vulcan
7 Blazers of Baltimore, Inc., and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.