

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0103R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Henry, Cole, Branch, Kraft, Conaway, Reisinger,
Clarke

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Transportation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Holiday Ticket Amnesty**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Transportation and the Chief of
4 the Safety Division to institute a policy of ticket amnesty for persons who receive certain
5 tickets the day after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

6 **Recitals**

7 Many government and private sector employers grant a vacation day or institute a liberal
8 leave policy for employees for the days after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. In fact,
9 *Fringe Benefits and Working Conditions in Manufacturing Firms*, first published in 2000, found
10 that the median number of paid holidays granted is 9 or 9½ days annually. In addition to the
11 basic 6 holidays, the paid holidays granted most frequently include the day after Thanksgiving
12 (78%).

13 The Bureau of Accounting and Payroll Services estimates that on November 28, 2008, the
14 day after Thanksgiving and on December 26, 2008, the day after Christmas more than 2/3rd of
15 all City employees chose to take the day off. State employees were not given a choice; instead
16 as the result of an Executive Order, they were required to take 2 days pay equivalent salary
17 reduction predesignated for December 26, 2008, and January 2, 2009.

18 Baltimore City Parking Control Unit reports that on November 28, 2008, 1216 parking
19 tickets were issued including: 271 for expired meters; 486 for parking in street cleaning zones;
20 214 in no stopping/towing zones; and 111 in no stopping zones. On December 26, 2008, 865
21 parking tickets were issued – 230 for expired meters; 351 for parking in street cleaning zones;
22 164 in no stopping/towing zones; and 120 in no stopping zones.

23 Many Maryland residents have been affected by the depressed economy. Baltimore City
24 homeowners have experienced the highest foreclosure rate in the state, and Baltimore City
25 employees and Maryland State employees have had to make many financial sacrifices in order to
26 address state and city budget shortfalls.

27 Because those on whose hard work the economy depends were off these 2 days either as a
28 result of well-deserved leave, non-voluntary furlough, or in the worst case scenario, loss of

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

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1 employment, it seems only fitting that they not be further penalized by the imposition of parking
2 ticket fees for parking their vehicles in the neighborhoods in which they live or in which they
3 spend their hard earned money .

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
5 Director of the Department of Transportation and the Chief of the Safety Division are requested
6 to institute a policy of ticket amnesty for persons who received certain tickets the day after the
7 Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

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