

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0269R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Stokes, Kraft, Cole, Middleton, Spector, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, D'Adamo, Conaway, Branch
Introduced and read first time: March 14, 2011

Assigned to: Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

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

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – The Status of Affordable**
3 **Housing in Baltimore City**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Housing Commissioner to brief the City Council on the
5 availability of affordable housing; the backlog of unfilled requests for affordable housing; the
6 number of persons on waiting lists for Section 8 or public housing; and the impact of the
7 possible decrease in CDBG funds on the Baltimore City affordable and public housing
8 markets.

9 **Recitals**

10 The Baltimore Housing Annual Action Plan FFY 2010/CFY 2011: August 2010 states that
11 activities undertaken with anticipated federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),
12 Home Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), or Housing
13 Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds must be consistent with the City's five-
14 year Consolidated Plan and address one or more of priority strategies, including:

- 15 • Provision of New Units of Affordable Housing – Assist extremely-, very- and low-
16 income renter households by providing affordable rent housing, and assist extremely-,
17 very- and low-renter households in becoming homeowners.

18 The Housing Authority of Baltimore City is “the fifth largest public housing authority in the
19 country, with more than 1,000 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$300 million.
20 The agency currently serves over 20,000 residents in more than 10,000 housing units. HABC’s
21 portfolio includes 28 family developments, 17 mixed population buildings, 2 senior buildings,
22 and scattered sites throughout the City. Baltimore’s Housing Choice Voucher program provides
23 an additional 12,000 families with rental housing subsidies each year.”

24 At a City Council hearing in early July 2009, it was alleged that the City was faced with an
25 urgent crisis of nearly 30,000 households on waiting lists for public housing or Section 8
26 vouchers – the result of demolition, beginning in 1994, of over 7,000 family public housing units
27 (5,588 apartments and at least 1,500 scattered site homes).

28 The Welfare Information Network reports that the United States has a severe shortage of
29 affordable housing. Many times, even when families can find housing, the cost and quality of

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

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1 that housing are problematic. More than three fifths of working poor adults with children, who
2 rent their housing, face such cost and quality problems. Both cost and availability contribute to
3 the affordable housing crisis – the high cost of housing exacerbates the tough choices that
4 families are forced to make about their household expenses for essentials, including food,
5 clothing, child care, and medical care.

6 Given the current state of the economy, it is appropriate that the Council re-examine the
7 availability of affordable, Section 8, and public housing for those of our residents hardest hit by
8 the national fiscal crisis.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
10 Housing Commissioner is requested to brief the City Council on the availability of affordable
11 housing; the backlog of unfilled requests for affordable housing; the number of persons on
12 waiting lists for Section 8 or public housing; and the impact of the possible decrease in CDBG
13 funds on the Baltimore City affordable and public housing markets.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
15 Commissioner of Housing, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.