

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 10-0211R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cole, Curran, Kraft, Middleton, Branch, D'Adamo, Holton,
Henry, Conaway, Welch, Spector, Reisinger, Clarke, President Young

Introduced and read first time: June 7, 2010

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Real Estate, Department of Housing
and Community Development, Baltimore Development Corporation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Lease Agreements for Baltimore City Properties**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting representatives from the City agencies involved in leasing
4 City-owned property to appear before the City Council to ensure that market rate calculations
5 are used in lease agreements and to ensure that adequate audits of City-owned property are
6 done on a regular and ongoing basis.

7 **Recitals**

8 The City of Baltimore owns more than 45,000 acres of property in surrounding counties in
9 addition to thousands of acres within City limits. Some of that property is leased to private
10 interests or to other jurisdictions for use.

11 Recent news reports indicate that a Baltimore County elected official leased approximately
12 20 acres of City-owned land at a far below-market rate of about \$11 per acre. According to those
13 news reports, the Baltimore County elected official negotiated a deal to pay a market rate price
14 in 2003 and signed an agreement to that effect. The agreement never took effect, so the land
15 remained at below-market rates until 2010.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
17 representatives from the Office of Real Estate, the Department of Housing, the Baltimore
18 Development Corporation, and any other City agency involved in lease agreements in which the
19 City of Baltimore is the landowner are requested to appear before the City Council to review the
20 case of the Baltimore County property, to determine if other below-market lease agreements
21 exist, and to determine why audits of city owned property never exposed this below-market lease
22 agreement previously.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
24 Housing Commissioner, the Comptroller, the President of the Baltimore Development
25 Corporation, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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