

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0117R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Kraft, Harris, Reisinger, President Dixon,
Councilmembers D’Adamo, Conaway, Young, Holton

Introduced and read first time: December 8, 2005

Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Planning Department, Department of Finance,
Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Transportation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **The Baltimore City Traffic Calming and Pedestrian-Friendly Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Citywide neighborhood and school-based task force to
4 cooperate with the Baltimore City Departments of Transportation and Planning to design and
5 adopt Baltimore City traffic calming and pedestrian-friendly goals, policies, procedures and
6 timelines that ensure safer traffic and pedestrian conditions for Baltimore’s residential and
7 school communities.

8 **WHEREAS**, The City of Baltimore is engaged in a \$23 million signalization project to reduce
9 congestion and expedite traffic flow in the downtown area and along major “gateway” roads
10 leading in and out of the City; and

11 **WHEREAS**, This signalization project is predicted to save 20 % of travel time and to decrease
12 congestion downtown and on major arteries; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City’s residential and school communities deserve a comparable
14 balance of focus, planning, and funding to protect our neighborhoods and children from unsafe
15 vehicular short-cutting, speeding, and excessive noise from unsafe pedestrian crossings; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Securing speed humps, for example, is currently an uncertain process whereby
17 neighborhoods are left to petition and hope for success in response to undefined criteria and
18 timelines; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Requests for traffic enforcement, for example on Cold Spring Lane, go generally
20 unmet as traffic officers are otherwise deployed to district patrol and special project functions;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, Our neighborhoods and schools require a toolbox of reliable traffic calming
23 strategies that they help to design, including vertical deflections (such as speed humps and raised
24 intersections), horizontal shifts (such as neighborhood traffic circles), roadway narrowings,
25 traffic pattern redesigns and pedestrian signalization phases; and

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

1 **WHEREAS**, In balancing the effects of the City’s major signalization project, an equally
2 focused project is required to design, adopt, and codify traffic calming and pedestrian-friendly
3 goals, policies, procedures and timelines; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Sufficient Transportation staff and capital funding will also be required to
5 implement the recommendations of the Traffic Calming and Pedestrian-Friendly Task Force and
6 to acknowledge the legitimacy of this Transportation function.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
8 Body establishes a Citywide neighborhood and school-based task force to cooperate with the
9 Baltimore City Departments of Transportation and Planning to design and adopt Baltimore City
10 traffic calming and pedestrian-friendly Goals, Policies, Procedures and Timelines which ensure
11 safer traffic and pedestrian conditions for Baltimore’s residential and school communities.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall be comprised of 19 neighborhood
13 and school representatives, 1 appointed from each City Council District by City Council
14 representatives, 2 appointed by the President of the City Council, and 3 appointed by the Mayor,
15 who will name the chair from among those 19 appointed members.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force will be appointed and convened within
17 2 months of the adoption of this resolution.

18 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force is authorized to appoint committees
19 comprised of additional neighborhood and school representatives to carry out specific tasks, such
20 as research on international models and best practices of traffic calming policies; outreach in
21 organizing public hearings throughout the City to solicit traffic calming ideas and report on draft
22 recommendations; and, budget development in estimating the operational and staffing costs of
23 establishing the traffic calming and pedestrian-friendly function of the Department of
24 Transportation.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force will conduct at least 4 public hearings
26 throughout the City before finalizing its final recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force will issue its final report to the Mayor
28 and City Council within one year of the adoption of this resolution.

29 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
30 Directors of Transportation, Planning, and Finance, CEO Bonnie Copeland and COO Eric
31 Letsinger, the Baltimore City Public School System, and to all neighborhood leaders listed with
32 the Department of Planning.