

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0224R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Harris

Introduced and read first time: October 16, 2006

Assigned to: Public Safety Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Emergency Hearing – Police Department – Deployment of Supplemental Force**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore Police Commissioner to brief the City Council on
4 the plan to deploy “extra-duty” officers to City neighborhoods in response to the rising crime
5 rate; to provide details of the number of officers and the specific areas the officers will be
6 assigned; and to share the rationale for limiting the period of deployment for the
7 supplemental force.

8 **Recitals**

9 In response to an escalating violent crime rate in certain neighborhoods in the eastern,
10 southern, and northwestern parts of the City, the Baltimore Police Commissioner is reassigning
11 some 70 officers from desk duty to patrol duty for a period of approximately 30 days. It is
12 anticipated that the increased police presence in troubled neighborhoods will curtail the violent
13 crime that has continued to take its toll on persons engaged in criminal activity and innocent
14 bystanders alike.

15 According to press accounts, the number of shootings are up 11%, and robberies are up 8%
16 over last year. And while statistics show total crime is down 3% this year, the number of
17 incidents resulting in fatalities is outpacing last year – as of October 9 of this year, the City
18 recorded 216 homicides compared with the 208 recorded for the same period last year. The
19 Eastern District has a 30% increase in homicides; the Southern District has a 9% increase in
20 shootings and a 17% increase in killings; and the Northwestern District has a 62% spike in
21 shootings, a 12% increase in robberies, and a 24% increase in slayings.

22 The Baltimore Police Department’s official capacity of 3,200 officers is understaffed by at
23 least 100 positions for reasons that include deployment of personnel to the armed forces,
24 transfers to other jurisdictions or departments, and assignments to administrative functions. In
25 March of this year, the Council expressed concerns about the Department’s “uniformed strength”
26 staffing goals that had lowered the optimum number of uniformed officers in some districts by as
27 much as 25%, despite unchanged boundaries and little change in population.

28 According to Department officials, the 70 “extra duty” officers that are being reassigned
29 from administrative, human resource, financial, record keeping, and recruitment duties to street
30 patrol and other active law enforcement activity will be replaced by police officers who are on
31 limited duty or sick leave because of injuries that preclude them from performing physically

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

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1 taxing police work. Logistically, this temporary solution to the need for more patrol officers
2 seems to be one that should be considered as a more permanent win-win solution to the
3 Department’s chronic under-staffing problems and the City’s chronic crime problems.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
5 Baltimore Police Commissioner is requested to brief the City Council on the plan to deploy
6 “extra-duty” officers to City neighborhoods in response to the rising crime rate; to provide
7 details of the number of officers and the specific areas the officers will be assigned; and to share
8 the rationale for limiting the period of deployment.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
10 Baltimore Police Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.