

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0042R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Reisinger, Clarke, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: September 11, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Feral Cats**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that representatives from the Health Department’s Office of
4 Animal Control appear before the City Council to discuss feral cats in Baltimore and whether
5 the City’s current approach to feral cats should be modified or remain the same.

6 **Recitals**

7 Feral cats, cats that are unsocialized to humans and have a temperament of extreme fear of
8 and resistance to contact with humans, are a reality in all communities, and Baltimore is no
9 exception. Over time, understandings about how they should be treated have evolved and a
10 number of different approaches to managing their presence in urban areas have been tried.

11 Nearly 10 years ago Baltimore changed its laws on, and approach to, feral cats to encourage
12 efforts by the City and private individuals to trap, alter, vaccinate, ear tip, and return feral cats.
13 Provisions were also added to the law to allow feral cat caregivers to engage with feral cats and
14 feral cat colonies without violating City law.

15 A decade into this approach it is appropriate to review how it is working in Baltimore and
16 whether or not changes may be required. The effects of this policy on cats, communities, and
17 Animal Control employees should be examined to see if it is succeeding in its goals or if
18 modifications to the current approach would benefit everyone involved.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
20 Council requests that representatives from the Health Department’s Office of Animal Control
21 appear before it to discuss feral cats in Baltimore and whether the City’s current approach to feral
22 cats should be modified or remain the same.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
24 Health Commissioner, the Director of Animal Control, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to
25 the City Council.

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