

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0015R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton,
Holton, Kraft, Mosby, Spector, Branch, Reisinger, Welch, Clarke, Stokes, Cole

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2012

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Baltimore Police Department –Online Reporting Systems**
3 **for Minor Crimes, Officer Commendations and Complaints**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore City Police Department to implement systems that
5 allow citizens to report minor crimes, commend an officer and initiate a complaint against an
6 officer on its website in order to provide a greater level of service and transparency to the
7 Citizens of Baltimore.

8 **Recitals**

9 In an effort to provide better more efficient service for their citizens, police departments
10 across the nation have begun to take reports for minor crimes online. Citizens in twenty-one of
11 the top forty cities by population, including Charlotte, Chicago and Seattle, now have the option
12 to report crimes like larceny from auto, property damage or theft, and communicating threats
13 online.

14 In 2011, the police departments in Charlotte and Seattle took in over 4,000 and 6,000 reports
15 online respectively. Baltimore citizens made over a million calls for police service in 2011.
16 Often those citizens find themselves waiting for long periods of time to get a report for a minor
17 crime that they need to provide to their insurance company.

18 In recent years the Baltimore Police Department has increased its use of technology and
19 communication with the citizenry. However, the Baltimore Police Department must continue to
20 be on the cutting edge of using technology to provide the most efficient service to the citizens of
21 Baltimore. Implementing an online reporting of minor crimes system would allow citizens the
22 option to file reports and get the information they need while simultaneously allowing officers to
23 focus on the more serious crimes.

24 Similarly, in an effort to strengthen trust with citizens, police departments across the country
25 are now allowing citizens to make commendations and complaints of police officers online.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
27 Council respectfully requests the Baltimore City Police Department to implement online
28 reporting systems for Minor Crimes, Officer Commendations and Complaints to provide a
29 greater level of service and transparency to the citizens of Baltimore.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Police Commissioner report to the City Council on
2 the progress of these programs and after implementation, annual reports on the usage of these
3 systems.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
5 Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.