

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 13-0136R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry and Branch, Middleton, Stokes, Reisinger, President

Young, Councilmembers Mosby, Holton, Welch

Introduced and read first time: November 18, 2013

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Death of Tyrone West in Police Custody**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Police Department and the Office of the Chief Medical  
4 Examiner to explain the reasons behind the abnormally long time being taken to determine  
5 the cause of Tyrone West’s death in police custody on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and to inform the City  
6 Council of the current status of the investigation into this disturbing incident.

7 **Recitals**

8 Exactly four months ago today, Tyrone Antonio West died in police custody. Beyond that,  
9 there is little certainty as to what exactly transpired on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

10 Witness and police accounts agree that there was an altercation involving Mr. West and  
11 multiple City police officers following a traffic stop on that date. Accounts vary about the nature  
12 of the altercation, and no clear picture has emerged about what caused the unspecified “medical  
13 distress” that police say led to Mr. West’s death.

14 In the months since his death, the officers involved in the incident have been suspended, and  
15 the Police Department’s leadership has vowed to get to the bottom of what happened. But no  
16 police findings have yet been released. And the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has so far  
17 failed to announce a cause of death. The West family has been left with no more information  
18 than they had more than 100 days ago.

19 This prolonged silence is frustrating and unacceptable. It leaves everyone involved – Mr  
20 West’s family, the suspended officers, and the affected communities – stuck in limbo with no  
21 idea what may happen next and no way to move forward. Continued delay in discussing the case  
22 also inevitably raises questions about the integrity of the investigation in communities scarred by  
23 past police abuses and undermines the public’s trust in the Police Department.

24 National standards call for cause-of-death determinations to be made within 90 days, and  
25 results are often available well before that. The public – and especially Mr. West’s family – has  
26 a right to know why this determination has been delayed long past the expected date, and where  
27 the investigation into Mr. West’s death stands.

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

**Council Bill 13-0136R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
2 Council calls on the Police Department and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to explain  
3 the reasons behind the abnormally long time being taken to determine the cause of Tyrone West's  
4 death in police custody on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and to inform the Council of the current status of the  
5 investigation into this disturbing incident.

6       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
7 Police Commissioner, the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the  
8 City Council.