

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0041R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conway, Porter, Middleton, Ramos, Bullock, McCray,  
Torrence, Burnett

Introduced and read first time: April 19, 2021

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore  
City Health Department, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement,  
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Domestic Violence in Baltimore City**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office,  
4 the Baltimore Police Department, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and  
5 Engagement, the Health Department, the Sheriff's Office, as well as community advocates  
6 fighting against domestic violence to share their expertise with the Baltimore City Council  
7 and the general public and to discuss programs available to victims of domestic violence.

8 **Recitals**

9 **WHEREAS**, Domestic violence (which, for the purposes of this resolution, encompasses  
10 intimate-partner violence) has been a serious issue across the country and globally since long  
11 before the COVID-19 pandemic;

12 **WHEREAS**, Domestic violence can encompass a wide swath of behaviors, including physical  
13 violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or  
14 spouse;

15 **WHEREAS**, Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence and the controlling and  
16 manipulative behavior that frequently accompanies it – no age, gender, or race is immune;

17 **WHEREAS**, Research shows members of vulnerable communities, such as the LGBTQ  
18 community, are at an equal or higher risk for domestic violence;

19 **WHEREAS**, As feared, incidents of domestic violence increased 31% in the past year as  
20 pandemic restrictions have kept more people isolated at home and unable to access resources that  
21 could help them leave an unsafe situation;

22 **WHEREAS**, In Baltimore City, more women and girls were the victim of violence in 2020  
23 than in any other year;

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

**Council Bill 21-0041R**

1       **WHEREAS**, Some of the most disturbing instances of violence in recent years have possibly  
2 been committed by an intimate partner of at least one of the victims, such as the murder of  
3 Shiand Miller (who was pregnant) and her 3 year-old daughter Shaniya Gilmore – police have  
4 charged the father of Miller’s unborn child with first-degree murder in this case; and

5       **WHEREAS**, The City Council cannot single-handedly legislate away domestic violence, but it  
6 has a duty to highlight the issue and investigate additional ways for City government to support  
7 people in vulnerable situations.

8       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City  
9 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, the Baltimore  
10 Police Department, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Health  
11 Department, the Sheriff’s Office, as well as community advocates fighting against domestic  
12 violence to share their expertise with the Baltimore City Council and the public and to discuss  
13 programs available to victims of domestic violence.

14       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City  
15 State’s Attorney, the Police Commissioner, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood  
16 Safety and Engagement, the Health Commissioner, the Sheriff, community advocates fighting  
17 against domestic violence, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.