

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0052R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Henry, Clarke, President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Costello, Burnett, Bullock, Sneed, Cohen, Pinkett, Schleifer, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: October 30, 2017

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, Office of Sustainability

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Baltimore's Disaster Preparedness**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the City agencies charged with preparing for
4 and responding to disasters in our City to appear before the City Council to discuss the
5 current state of Baltimore's disaster preparedness and how lessons learned from recent
6 disaster responses can be applied here at home to ensure the best possible response to any
7 threats we may face.

8 **Recitals**

9 This year's particularly severe hurricane season has seen devastating storms impact a number
10 of American communities. Some of the impacted areas have responded better and more
11 effectively than others. Some have simply been overwhelmed by the unprecedented scale of
12 devastation, and others have been spared worst-case scenarios but have had to face the fact that
13 events they had not anticipated are real possibilities.

14 A great deal can be learned from the responses to these disasters. No one ever wants to think
15 that it could be their community facing devastation, but communities that have spent time
16 learning the lessons of previous disasters are the ones best able to mitigate their impacts if and
17 when they are challenged themselves.

18 Baltimore has had the good fortune to avoid a disaster like those caused by hurricanes
19 Harvey, Irma, and Maria for many years, but it has had to deal with challenging weather events
20 and is not immune to the threat of something worse. It is important that the lessons taught by
21 Baltimore's own experiences and those of other communities be constantly examined and
22 combined to ensure that we are as prepared as possible for any conceivable disaster.

23 One important element of this preparation is effective communication within government and
24 between the City and its residents. City Council hearings on the state of Baltimore's disaster
25 preparedness are an important part of that communication and preparation.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
27 Council calls on representatives from the City agencies charged with preparing for and

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

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1 responding to disasters in our City to appear before it to discuss the current state of Baltimore's
2 disaster preparedness and how lessons learned from recent disaster responses can be applied here
3 at home to ensure the best possible response to any threats we may face.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
5 Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, the Police Commissioner, the Fire
6 Chief, the Health Commissioner, the Director of Public Works, and the Mayor's Legislative
7 Liaison to the City Council.