

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 06-0144R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Young, Harris, Clarke, Reisinger, Mitchell, Kraft,  
D’Adamo, Spector, Rawlings Blake, Conaway, Holton, Welch, Branch, President Dixon

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Diabetes in Baltimore City**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Commissioner of Health brief the Council on the current  
4 prevalence of Diabetes in Baltimore City and what Health Department resources are being  
5 utilized to help inform citizens about the characteristics of the illness, in order to help combat  
6 this terrible and debilitating disease.

7 **Recitals**

8 Diabetes is a disease in which the body either does not produce enough insulin or doesn’t  
9 properly use the insulin that the body makes. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert  
10 sugar, starches and other food into energy needed by the body. Approximately 17 million people  
11 in the in the United States have diabetes. An estimated 382,000 people in Maryland have  
12 diabetes. Half of these people have been diagnosed, but the other half have not and are unaware  
13 that they have the disease. An additional 1,326,032 Marylanders are at risk of developing  
14 diabetes due to the risk factors of age, obesity, and sedentary life style. Diabetes and diabetes-  
15 related illness cause 74,000 hospitalizations each year. Of these, 1,620 are for amputations, with  
16 an average length 16.7-days hospital stay at an average cost of \$17,888 per hospitalization, and  
17 4,670 are for diabetes-related kidney disease, with an average length 9-days hospital stay at an  
18 average cost of \$11,413. Diabetes is also the cause of an estimated 285 new cases of blindness  
19 in Maryland each year.

20 According to the latest 5 year average statistics, which are compiled by the Center for  
21 Preventative Health Services, in Baltimore City alone there were 44,524 cases of diabetes. Of  
22 these, 19,443 were male, and 25,080 were female. These numbers show that over 17 percent of  
23 documented diabetes cases in the State of Maryland are found in Baltimore City. In order to  
24 help combat this horrible and debilitating disease, the Health Department, as well as other City  
25 agencies and services, need to come together to help keep the average citizen informed of the  
26 risks, as well as the services that can be provided to help those who have and have not already  
27 been diagnosed. This hearing will help the City Council get the information it needs to work  
28 with the Commissioner of Health, in order to provide the best services to the greatest number of  
29 people in a manner that is befitting to our great City.

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

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this body  
2 requests that the Commissioner of Health brief the Council regarding the current prevalence of  
3 Diabetes in Baltimore City and what Health Department resources are being utilized to help  
4 inform citizens about the characteristics of the illness, in order to help combat this terrible and  
5 debilitating disease.

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