

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0082R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Henry, Holton, Middleton, Mosby, Cole, Clarke,
Reisinger, Stokes, Scott, Branch, President Young, Councilmembers Welch, Kraft
Introduced and read first time: December 6, 2012
Assigned to: Labor Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: January 28, 2013

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Informational Hearing – Casino Community Hiring

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2 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Employment
3 Development (MOED) and the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to appear before
4 the City Council to discuss the possible benefits of a job development MOU with the
5 Baltimore casino developers, what types of job training and support can best be provided by
6 both the City and developers on this project, and what the next steps should be for ensuring
7 that Baltimore is adequately preparing its workforce for the employment opportunities that
8 the casino will create.

Recitals

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10 According to a September Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) projection, the casino
11 being developed by Caesars Entertainment in Baltimore will create 1939 construction jobs while
12 being built, and 1894 permanent jobs once it is up and running. These numbers may actually
13 understate the casino’s employment impact – since the projections were calculated, Caesars has
14 announced that the passage of Question 7 legalizing table games in Maryland will allow it to
15 increase its permanent staff by roughly 40% and raise its overall investment in Baltimore by
16 some \$25 million.

17 Regardless of what numbers are used, it is clear that the casino will bring thousands of jobs to
18 Baltimore. What is not yet clear is how many of these jobs will go to Baltimoreans. In order for
19 our city to receive the greatest possible benefit from the casino development, it is important that
20 everything possible be done to maximize the number of city resident’s filling these positions.

21 One approach is to mandate that locals be hired, because, in fact, State law allows local
22 jurisdictions to impose local hiring requirements to the extent authorized by local law and
23 permitted by the U.S. Constitution. Further, State rules require that a certain percentage of
24 casino employees be local residents. But they define “local” in a way that will include many
25 areas outside of Baltimore. We cannot rely solely on these rules to encourage Caesars to employ
26 Baltimoreans.

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

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1 In reality, no local hiring requirement, however drafted, will ever be effective at creating jobs
2 for Baltimore unless our labor force can provide potential employees with the skills needed by
3 the employer. Instead of merely attempting to require Caesars to hire Baltimore residents, we
4 need to empower our workers with the ability to earn these new jobs.

5 On past projects, the City has succeeded in doing this by partnering with developers through
6 a memorandum of understanding (MOU) early on in a project's development that both identifies
7 what skills and training will be required for employees of the completed project, and creates a
8 framework for the City and the developers to work together to assist community members in
9 obtaining the identified skills and training.

10 This process should be emulated for the casino project. Representatives from BDC and the
11 Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) should be working with Caesars to
12 develop a comprehensive picture of exactly what positions will be needed at the casino and what
13 skill-sets will be required to meet these needs. How well currently existing programs match the
14 requirements of this project should also be evaluated. Then additional trainings, goals, and
15 policies can be created by both the City and the developers to ensure that there are a sufficient
16 number of qualified potential employees available in Baltimore to meet all of Caesars needs.

17 In order for this effort to succeed it must begin immediately, so that there is ample time to
18 identify adequate resources and to initiate neighborhood-based, faith-based, community-based,
19 and city-wide training programs tailored for these new jobs. The goal will be to have as many
20 eligible Baltimoreans as possible qualified for casino employment by MOED. With construction
21 slated for next year, and the casino targeting a 2014 opening, we cannot afford any delays.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
23 Council calls on representatives from the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)
24 and the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to appear before it to discuss the possible
25 benefits of a job development MOU with the Baltimore casino developers, what types of job
26 training and support can best be provided by both the City and developers on this project, and
27 what the next steps should be for ensuring that Baltimore is adequately preparing its workforce
28 for the employment opportunities that the casino will create.

29 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
30 President of the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Director of the Mayor's Office of
31 Employment Development, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.