

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 05-0116R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, Kraft, Young, Harris, Mitchell, Clarke, Reisinger,  
D’Adamo, Conaway, Holton, Branch

Introduced and read first time: December 8, 2005

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

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Housing and Community Development,  
Department of Public Works, Health Department, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Rat Eradication – We Need a New Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Baltimore City Health Department, the  
4 Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of  
5 Public Works, and the Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the City’s current  
6 rat eradication procedures as well as to discuss the development of new rat eradication  
7 strategies and to explore alternate funding sources to aid in the eradication of the rat problem.

8 **Recitals**

9 Rats are a major source of disease. In addition to playing hosts to parasites such as lice,  
10 fleas, and ticks, rats are linked to the spread of a number of infectious diseases. These diseases  
11 include:

- 12 (1) leptospirosis, a disease that causes muscle aches and fever and can lead to serious  
13 inflammation of the nerve to the eye, brain, spinal column, or other nerve endings;
- 14 (2) toxoplasmosis, an infection that is of particular concern to persons with depressed  
15 immune systems and pregnant women whose unborn children are at risk of  
16 developing mental retardation, convulsions, spasticity, cerebral palsy, deafness, and  
17 severely impaired vision, as well as abnormally large or abnormally small heads;
- 18 (3) trichinosis, which causes abdominal discomfort, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting,  
19 fatigue, and fever, and, in severe cases, death;
- 20 (4) skin disorders, caused by fungi, which result in ulcers, abscesses, skin eruptions  
21 or  
22 lesions, or, caused by mites, which result in infectious scabies; and
- 23 (5) more familiar diseases such as rabies, salmonella, and bubonic and pneumonic  
24 plagues.

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

1 Female rats can reproduce 3 to 7 times per year. Because rats have a life-span of 18 months,  
2 a single pair of rats can produce dozens of offspring that add to the population of unwelcome  
3 rodents that threaten the health and welfare of the residents of Baltimore City neighborhoods.  
4 Particularly vulnerable are our children who play in the vacant lots that are home to this vicious  
5 army of marauding menaces.

6 Baltimore City has been plagued by a rat problem for many years. In order to properly  
7 combat this problem, more funding needs to be presented so that the issue at hand can be  
8 confronted in a serious manner, and so that appropriate measures can be taken swiftly to rid the  
9 City of these vermin. By bringing these various leaders and agencies together and discussing  
10 strategies that may help, hopefully we as a city can come together to eradicate this problem from  
11 within our borders.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
13 Body requests the Director of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the  
14 Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Public Works, and the  
15 Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the City’s current rat eradication procedures,  
16 as well as to discuss the development of new rat eradication strategies and to explore alternate  
17 funding sources to aid in the eradication of the rat problem.

18 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
19 Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Public  
20 Works, the Director of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of Finance, and the  
21 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.