

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0189R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Holton, Scott, Stokes, Branch,
Middleton, Welch, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Kraft, Mosby, Curran

Introduced and read first time: September 15, 2014

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing - CitiBuy - Efficiency and Cost-Savings to the City of Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Purchases report
4 to the City Council on the current operations of the CitiBuy Program, the efficiency of the
5 CitiBuy Program, and whether the procurement agreements used in the City of Baltimore are
6 ensuring that supplies and goods are purchased at the best prices available.

7 **Recitals**

8 In July of 2007, the City of Baltimore implemented CitiBuy, a “comprehensive,
9 best-of-breed” e-procurement system meant to streamline purchasing and reduce the complexity
10 of procurement programs. In the seven years since its implementation, the City has used CitiBuy
11 to post all new procurement requests and required all vendors to register through CitiBuy.

12 According to the Bureau of Purchases, ‘best value’ is defined “according to public
13 procurement best practices: delivering the right good or service, at the right time, to the right
14 place, from the right source, and at the right price”. In response to a 2009 City Council
15 Investigative Hearing on CitiBuy, the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Purchases noted
16 that CitiBuy reduced the backlog of requisitions and allowed for the completion of 90% of
17 purchases off of an existing Master Blanket agreement within 7 days.

18 Despite these efficiencies, questions remain about the cost efficiency of CitiBuy and the
19 Master Blanket agreements used by City agencies for much of the day-to-day office supplies
20 purchased. In Fiscal Year 2013, the Bureau of Purchase oversaw orders totaling \$277 million
21 with over 14,000 vendors through the CitiBuy system. It is estimated that the number of vendors
22 will reach 16,000 during Fiscal Year 2016 and that there will be an average of four responses to
23 each formal solicitation for bids.

24 With the amount of purchasing power expended by the City of Baltimore and the number of
25 vendors seeking to do business with the City, it is important to ensure that the City of Baltimore
26 is getting the best prices and services when conducting business for the Citizens of Baltimore.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
28 Council requests that the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Purchases report to it on the
29 current operations of the CitiBuy Program, the efficiency of the CitiBuy Program, and whether

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

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1 the procurement agreements used in the City of Baltimore are ensuring that supplies and goods
2 are purchased at the best prices available.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Director of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.