

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 23-0186R**  
**(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember McCray, President Mosby, and Councilmembers Burnett, Bullock, Conway, Middleton, Schleifer, Stokes, Ramos, Porter, Glover, Cohen, Torrence, and Costello

Introduced and read first time: August 21, 2023

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Planning, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works, City Administrator, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Examining the State of Baltimore’s Middle Neighborhoods**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community  
4 Development, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of  
5 Transportation, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Mayor’s  
6 Office of Children and Family Success, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of  
7 Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the City Administrator, and other interested parties to  
8 appear before the City Council to discuss: (1) the systemic disinvestment of Baltimore’s  
9 middle neighborhoods and its connection to the decline in Baltimore’s population of working  
10 and middle class families; (2) ongoing efforts to revitalize these neighborhoods; (3) future  
11 strategies to invest in these neighborhoods; and (4) present challenges to reversing current  
12 trends and restoring these once-stable communities.

13 **Recitals**

14 The 2020 Decennial Census found that Baltimore’s population declined by 5.7% from 2010  
15 to 2020, a loss of approximately 35,253 residents. In its 2020 data analysis report “Drilling  
16 Down in Baltimore’s Neighborhoods, the Abell Foundation found that the majority of this  
17 population loss was constituted of working and middle class families, who are leaving  
18 Baltimore’s middle neighborhoods.

19 Middle neighborhoods are neighborhoods that are not unduly distressed, yet are not the most  
20 affluent. Historically, middle neighborhoods have been a stabilizing force in Baltimore.  
21 Communities like Frankford and those along the Belair Road corridor have been home to the  
22 crux of the City’s tax base and legacy homeowners.

23 Between 2000 and 2017, predominately Black, middle income neighborhoods accounted for  
24 70% of Baltimore’s Black population decline and over 50% of all population loss. Middle  
25 neighborhood population decline can be attributed to numerous factors, including a lack of  
26 capital investment, a lack of economic opportunities, inconsistent Code enforcement, the absence  
27 of youth and family programming, and a scarcity of necessary community resources.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 Disinvestment in these communities has cause the local economy to degrade, caused  
2 relentless out-migration, lowered the standard of living for current residents, and limited future  
3 opportunities for Baltimore’s families to create inter-generational wealth.

4 As the long-standing residents of Baltimore’s middle neighborhoods continue to migrate into  
5 surrounding counties, Baltimore loses the value of their presence. This City has always relied on  
6 its working and middle classes to sustain its economy and municipal operations; however,  
7 despite their substantial contributions to our City, these legacy homeowners struggle to maintain  
8 and live in their homes due to a lack of investment in their communities.

9 In the last few years, some of our City agencies, alongside community-based organizations,  
10 have begun to analyze the benefits of preserving the City’s middle neighborhoods and are  
11 devising a strategy to revitalize them. It has never been more imperative that we generate  
12 actionable plans and overturn current trends in order to preserve Baltimore’s neighborhoods,  
13 provide for legacy residents, and protect the City’s overall economy.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
15 Council invites the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development,  
16 the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the  
17 Director of the Department of Public Works, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of  
18 Children and Family Success, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and  
19 Engagement, the City Administrator, and other interested parties to appear before the City  
20 Council to discuss: (1) the systemic disinvestment of Baltimore’s middle neighborhoods and its  
21 connection to the decline in Baltimore’s population of working and middle class families; (2)  
22 ongoing efforts to revitalize these neighborhoods; (3) future strategies to invest in these  
23 neighborhoods; and (4) present challenges to reversing current trends and restoring these once-  
24 stable communities.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner  
26 of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of  
27 Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of  
28 Public Works, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, the  
29 Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the City Administrator,  
30 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.