

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0202R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Bullock, Porter, Ramos, Cohen, Torrence, Dorsey, Burnett,
Middleton

Introduced and read first time: November 20, 2023

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of
Housing and Community Development, Baltimore Development Corporation, Office of Equity
and Civil Rights, Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, Housing Authority of
Baltimore City

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing — Deed Fraud**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Housing and Community
4 Development, the Department of Finance, the Department of Law, Baltimore Development
5 Corporation, the Office of the Clerk of the Court for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, and
6 the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General to: (1) provide
7 background information on the crime of obtaining a title to real property by fraud, also
8 known as “deed fraud”, “title theft”, or “house stealing”; (2) discuss the prevalence of deed
9 fraud within the City of Baltimore; (3) present on what, if any, systems exist that proactively
10 combat the commission of deed fraud; and (4) present how, if necessary, the City may better
11 protect real property owners from becoming victims of deed fraud.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
13 Council invites representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development,
14 the Department of Finance, the Department of Law, Baltimore Development Corporation, the
15 Office of the Clerk of the Court for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, and the Consumer
16 Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General to: (1) provide background information
17 on the crime of obtaining a title to real property by fraud, also known as “deed fraud”, “title
18 theft”, or “house stealing”; (2) discuss the prevalence of deed fraud within the City of Baltimore;
19 (3) present on what, if any, systems exist that proactively combat the commission of deed fraud;
20 and (4) present how, if necessary, the City may better protect real property owners from
21 becoming victims of deed fraud.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
23 of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of
24 Finance, the City Solicitor, the Clerk of the Court for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the
25 Chief of the Division of Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General, and the
26 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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