

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0072R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, Branch, Kraft, Young, Harris, President Dixon,
Councilmembers Reisinger, D’Adamo, Rawlings Blake, Mitchell, Curran, Clarke, Welch
Introduced and read first time: July 11, 2005
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: September 19, 2005

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

The Clarence Mitchell Court House – Let’s Clean It Up

FOR the purpose of requesting an informational hearing on the behalf of the employees who currently work at the Clarence Mitchell Court House in Baltimore City in order to determine the current working conditions as well as to solicit suggestions from those employees about ways to create a more suitable work environment.

Recitals

For the last 6 years, employees who work in the Clarence Mitchell Court House have had some very serious complaints. First and foremost, the complaint has been that the work conditions are simply sub par. The air quality in the courthouse has been described as poor, odorous, and stuffy. The hallways and court rooms are overcrowded, and many of the rooms are infested with insects. Employees have complained of breathing problems from the lack of fresh air, and many of the people who work with in the walls of the building have complained of asthma and respiratory difficulties.

In addition to the health issues, there are also safety issues that need to be considered. The courthouse is no longer able to accommodate the number of prisoners and citizens passing through the halls on any given day. The same halls that prisoners are walked through are also used by lawyers, judges and jurors, as well as the many citizens that may be using the courthouse that day. The separation of citizen and prisoner issue needs to be addressed in order to make sure that the citizens in the courthouse are protected at all times.

Something needs to be done about this as soon as possible. The employees that work in the courthouse deserve more from the City of Baltimore. We as a City, have a moral and legal obligation to take care of these problems. The Clarence Mitchell Court House is a City run building that houses State Employees. By law, the City of Baltimore makes any and every attempt to crack down on negligent landlords, and now, unfortunately, we have become negligent landlords ourselves. We are the trusted partners of these State employees, and we have let them down.

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

1 Fortunately, we can work towards a solution. First, we need to know exactly what the
2 problems are and what can be done to fix them. With the help of the employees of the
3 Courthouse, the City Employees who maintain the property, and the information they can both
4 provide, we can fix the issues that the courthouse has. The sooner we can take care of these
5 issues the better, to avoid any potential lawsuits.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
7 Body requests an informational hearing on the behalf of the employees who currently work at the
8 Clarence Mitchell Court House in Baltimore City in order to determine the current working
9 conditions as well as to solicit suggestions from those employees about ways to create a more
10 suitable work environment.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
12 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.