


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b>  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 17-0014R</b>		

DATE: April 18, 2017

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin  
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 17-0014R introduced by Council Members Costello, Middleton, Scott, Burnett, Bullock, Pinkett, Dorsey, Henry, Cohen, Sneed, Clarke, Schleifer, Reisinger, Stokes, and President Young.

The purpose of this Resolution is to call for the creation of a Stormwater Remediation Fee Oversight Committee including representatives from citizens and stakeholders impacted by stormwater management efforts as well as City agencies involved in stormwater management and mitigation.

The City of Baltimore established a Stormwater Remediation Fee and Fund, effective July 1, 2013<sup>1</sup>, in response to provisions of State law and to ensure that adequate funds were available to meet the requirements of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Prior to the establishment of the fee and fund, the Department of Public Works briefed Council members, held public information meetings around the city, and met with various stakeholder groups to discuss the proposed structure and purpose of the fee and fund. A special website, Clean Water Baltimore, was used to post presentations, fact sheets, FAQs, meeting notices, reports and other relevant information to provide the public with ready access to stormwater information as it developed. The Department also consulted with a group of stakeholders in the development of proposed credit programs that were later adopted into the local stormwater ordinance or included in the stormwater regulations. Once the fee and fund were established, the Department created a stormwater advisory committee (SWAC) whose members included a cross section of stakeholder and community representatives. The SWAC was advisory to the Director and worked with staff to discuss the development of the Watershed Implementation Plans, annual performance and financial reports, and issues of concern to the members. The recently released updating of the stormwater regulations that are posted for public comment includes changes proposed by the SWAC.

During the last term of the City Council two resolutions were introduced and had hearings: Resolution 16-0301R (Investigative Hearing – Expediting Stormwater Management Projects and Activities) and Resolution 16-0302R (Informational Hearing – Stormwater Enterprise Fund Usage). The Department attended and presented information and answered questions raised by the Committee and the public. The Department also used these hearings as an opportunity to

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 12-04 amended the Charter to establish a stormwater utility; Ordinance 13-175 established the stormwater fee and fund.

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explain and present a new State-required report known as the Financial Assurance Plan. At the hearings, the Committee chair and others expressed an interest in establishing a stormwater advisory group to follow up on some of the concerns and issues raised during the hearings.

City Council Resolution 17-0014R would create a Stormwater Remediation Fee Oversight Committee under the purview of the Council's Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, providing oversight and input into the use of ratepayer funds collected from the stormwater remediation fee. The committee membership would include representation from businesses, environmental groups, and citizens from the five City watersheds. The members are to be appointed by the Council President in consultation with the Director of Public Works. The created committee and its work would "sunset" on the last day of the 72<sup>nd</sup> term of the City Council.

The Department of Public Works appreciates the interest of the Council in the stormwater remediation program and welcomes the opportunity to broaden the public's understanding of the challenges of and solutions for reducing the polluting effects of stormwater runoff on our streams, Harbor and Chesapeake Bay. The Department of Public Works endorses the concept embodied in City Council Resolution 17-0014R and supports its passage.

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director

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