

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0003R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers McCray, Ramos, Middleton, Bullock, Torrence, Cohen, Stokes,
Burnett, Glover, Porter, Conway

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Baltimore’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department,
4 Baltimore’s healthcare community, and other interested parties before the Baltimore City
5 Council to discuss Baltimore’s COVID-19 vaccination plan.

6 **Recitals**

7 In December of 2020, Pfizer and Moderna were granted emergency use authorization of their
8 respective COVID-19 vaccines. Subsequently, a rigorous distribution effort began to ship large
9 amounts of the vaccines to states across the country. The efficacy rate of the Moderna vaccine is
10 94.1% and Pfizer's 95.0%, both requiring an initial shot and then from several to four weeks
11 later, a follow-up booster shot.

12 Baltimore’s residents have been struggling with the weight of the Coronavirus pandemic for
13 10 months, and although there is a vaccination to be distributed, the end to the pandemic seems
14 uncertain. To date, the City has seen more than 32,000 COVID-19 cases, three-figure
15 hospitalization numbers consistently, and more than 600 deaths. Within these 10 months, health,
16 economic, and educational disparities have been exacerbated as the impact of COVID-19 hit
17 marginalized communities the hardest. With the average median income at \$50,379 and 21% of
18 the population being below the poverty line, a large portion of the City’s residents can identify
19 with the intensified struggle.

20 Given the added difficulty in pursuing the most basic necessities in life – income, education,
21 and even human engagement and interaction – it is in the best interest of the City to rapidly
22 disburse a vaccine to its residents, bringing the end to the virus closer. Data has shown that Black
23 and Brown populations are twice as likely to test positive for the virus, and so a primary focal
24 point for cities such as Baltimore is how to effectively manage outbreaks within those
25 communities. Understanding the factors driving these disparities is vital to developing strategies
26 to curb the disproportionate epidemics in minority communities.

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

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1 Accordingly, a thorough explanation of the Health Department’s plan for the disbursal of the
2 vaccination to residents is necessary. It is especially imperative for the Health Department to
3 have a specific engagement plan for lower-income communities, which have been hit quite hard
4 and addressing the growing concerns many residents have about the safety and reliability of this
5 vaccine.

6 Finally, the City is conscious of a new strain of Coronavirus that has been detected in the
7 United States, and we should be prepared. To be sure, whether or not there are any effects this
8 new strain may have on the vaccination disbursement plan, our citizens should be made aware.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
10 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore’s
11 healthcare community, and other interested parties before the Baltimore City Council to discuss
12 Baltimore’s COVID-19 vaccination plan.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
14 Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the President of the Maryland Hospital Association, and
15 the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.