

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0010R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Holton, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Curran,
Cole, Conaway, Welch, Reisinger, Henry, Middleton, Branch, Kraft
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2008
Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: March 3, 2008

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Informational Hearing – Report of the Mayor’s
Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees**

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3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Committee Co-Chairs and Members to share with the City
4 Council the findings of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees on alternate
5 revenue options and other viable measures that can be implemented to reduce Baltimore
6 City’s property tax rate over the next several years.

Recitals

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8 The Report of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees, released on
9 December 5, 2007, is the work of a 26-member group of civic leaders who were appointed to
10 review the City’s property tax rate and charged with developing options City officials might
11 consider to reduce the City’s tax rate that, at the 2008 rate of \$2.268 per \$100 of assessed value,
12 is 2 times that of neighboring subdivisions.

13 The Committee studied the current composition of the City’s major revenue sources and
14 property tax structure, conferred with experts in municipal finance and property tax assessment,
15 and utilized the proficiency and expertise of State and City officials and committee members in
16 economic development, banking, commercial real estate, community leadership, law, and other
17 fields.

18 The work product of the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees is a menu of
19 alternative revenue options and other measures that the City can employ to reduce the property
20 tax significantly. The Committee recommends a broad selection of the measures be adopted to
21 reduce the City property tax rate over the next several years by 32%, which equates to a \$0.72
22 reduction per \$100 of assessed value.

23 It is imperative that the policy makers have a thorough understanding of the proposals that
24 are meant to result in a reduction of such a magnitude as to ensure that the City’s property tax
25 rate is no more than 50% higher than the average rate of the surrounding counties and will
26 provide a “tremendous stimulus to growth and development in the City”.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
28 Committee Co-Chairs and Members are invited to share with the City Council the findings of the

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

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1 Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees on alternate revenue options and other
2 viable measures that can be implemented to reduce Baltimore City's property tax rate over the
3 next several years.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Co-
5 Chairs of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees, the Director of Finance, the
6 Commissioner of Housing, the Director of Planning, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
7 City Council.