

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0067R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, Reisinger, Branch, Clarke, Mosby

Introduced and read first time: September 10, 2012

Assigned to: Recreation and Parks Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Recreation and Parks, Health
Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Intergenerational Recreation Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the agencies concerned with recreational and
4 enrichment programming for both seniors and children to appear before the City Council to
5 discuss the possibility of creating intergenerational recreation centers in Baltimore and
6 expanding intergenerational programming that benefits Baltimoreans of all ages.

7 **Recitals**

8 In some Baltimore neighborhoods, individuals from two vulnerable populations – seniors and
9 children – too often remain underserved. Expanding educational, enrichment, and recreational
10 opportunities for both of these populations should be a city-wide priority.

11 However, in the current era of limited financial resources, the City cannot always spend what
12 it would like to on these priorities. It therefore cannot afford to limit itself to only traditional
13 approaches that are premised on serving seniors and young people separately. Instead, the
14 innovative idea of creating intergenerational recreation centers should be explored.

15 This idea, gaining in popularity nationwide and in cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago,
16 allows facilities to leverage their available space and staff by providing programming to each
17 population at different times while also creating unique opportunities for mutually rewarding
18 shared experiences that pair seniors and children.

19 Federal agencies and private national foundations are becoming increasingly vocal boosters
20 of this concept for both its efficiency and the very real advantages to both seniors and children
21 that each gets from the opportunity to interact with the other. One agency that promotes
22 intergenerational programming states:

23 “Intergenerational programs bring together diverse groups and networks
24 and help to dispel inaccurate stereotypes. Sharing talents and resources
25 help to create a unified group identity. Children, youth, and older adults
26 are less alienated while the community recognizes that they are
27 contributing members of society... Intergenerational programs promote
28 the transmission of cultural traditions and values from older to younger

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

Council Bill 12-0067R

1 generations, helping build a sense of personal and societal identity while
2 encouraging tolerance.”

3 Although programming for seniors and children has traditionally been spread between
4 different City agencies, greater collaboration between these agencies should be encouraged so
5 that the full benefits of intergenerational programming can be brought to Baltimore, and the
6 resource maximizing potential of intergenerational recreation centers can be fully explored.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
8 Council calls on representatives from the agencies concerned with recreational and enrichment
9 programming for both seniors and children to appear before it to discuss the possibility of
10 creating intergenerational recreation centers in Baltimore and expanding intergenerational
11 programming that benefits Baltimoreans of all ages.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 Director of Recreation and Parks, the Health Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
14 to the City Council.