

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0283R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Young, Harris, President Rawlings-Blake,
Councilmembers Kraft, D'Adamo, Spector, Middleton, Conaway, Holton, Welch, Reisinger,
Mitchell, Crider, Clarke

At the request of: Lauraville Improvement Association & the Loch Raven Improvement
Association, c/o Chris Muldowney
Address: 2715 Woodsdale Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21214
Telephone: 410-426-2529

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc., Department
of Finance, Health Department, Bureau of Animal Control, Police Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Baltimore City Animal Control**

3 FOR the purpose of urgently requesting the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to
4 immediately provide adequate funding to the Baltimore City Bureau of Animal Control, the
5 Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc., (BARCS), and the Baltimore City Police
6 Department to successfully address issues of animal control, cruelty to animals, and
7 endangerment of persons by vicious animals in Baltimore City and to increase the funding in
8 succeeding years until the funding levels are equal to those in other American cities of
9 comparable size and demographics.

10 **Recitals**

11 Historically, Baltimore City Animal Control has been underfunded, and consequently many
12 issues relating to animal cruelty, animal neglect, endangerment of citizens, dog aggression, and
13 the heinous and dangerous practice of dog fighting, a gateway activity to a drug and gun culture,
14 have been neglected or ignored completely.

15 Experts in the behavioral sciences have long identified a correlation between the impaired
16 empathy that allows persons to engage in cruelty to animals to an increased likelihood of a
17 psychological state that leads to a danger of abuse of humans, particularly those most vulnerable,
18 the young and the elderly.

19 In 2005, the City reorganized its animal shelter into the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care
20 Shelter, Inc., (BARCS), a non-profit organization with the specific mission of protecting animals
21 from neglect, abuse, and exploitation, to advocate their interests and welfare, and to inspire
22 awareness and compassion for all living things.

23 To effectively address issues related to animal control, the humane treatment of animals, and
24 the enforcement of criminal and civil sanctions of persons who engage in animal cruelty or

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

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1 neglect, the Lauraville and Loch Raven Improvement Associations urge the City of Baltimore to
2 move toward addressing the inadequate funding of Baltimore City Animal Control and BARCS
3 by:

- 4 • Adding 3 to 5 additional trained Animal Control Officers in the Bureau of Animal
5 Control this budget cycle and increasing the staff each succeeding year until an
6 appropriate staffing level is achieved to address Baltimore’s animal control and
7 related issues.

- 8 • By funding BARCS’ budget request of \$290,000 that will allow for additional
9 veterinarian staff services and the procurement of adequate supplies to provide
10 services to alleviate the suffering of the many animals that are dumped at their door
11 daily, many in horrible condition, to provide humane treatment for those that can be
12 saved, and to find adoptive homes for as many as possible.

- 13 • By pledging to increase funding to the Bureau of Animal Control and BARCS until it
14 reaches a funding level comparable to those of other American cities of similar size
15 and demographics.

- 16 • By providing funding to train Baltimore City Police to deal with vicious dogs and
17 incidents of animal cruelty so that the Police Department and the Bureau of Animal
18 Control can work together to address the epidemic of cruelty and danger that uses
19 living creatures as bait and aggressors in dog fights and weapons of intimidation in
20 the drug trade.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
22 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City is urgently requested to immediately provide
23 adequate funding to the Baltimore City Bureau of Animal Control, BARCS, and the Baltimore
24 City Police Department to successfully address issues of animal control, cruelty to animals, and
25 endangerment of persons by vicious animals in Baltimore City and to increase the funding in
26 succeeding years until the funding levels are equal to those in other American cities of
27 comparable size and demographics.

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
29 President of the Lauraville Improvement Association, the President of the Loch Raven
30 Improvement Association, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Baltimore Police
31 Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.