

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0327R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Clarke, Stokes, D’Adamo, Kraft, Middleton, Cole,
Welch, President Young, Councilmember Conaway

Introduced and read first time: October 24, 2011

Assigned to: Recreation and Parks Subcommittee

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

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Recreation and Parks – Disposition of Recreation Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of Recreation and Parks and the head of the Bureau
4 of
5 Recreation to appear before the City Council to discuss the status of the City’s 61 recreation
6 facilities - 5 of which are already closed - and the disposition of the 31 recreation centers that
7 are not currently funded for operation beyond December 31, 2011.

8 **WHEREAS**, over the last twenty years, while the city's over-all operating budget has almost
9 doubled, the Recreation and Parks budget has shrunk, to the point where the FY 2012 budget
10 provides sufficient funds to operate only 30 of the 55 currently-open recreation centers for the
11 entire fiscal year.

12 **WHEREAS**, in April of 2009, the Baltimore City Council adopted Council Bill 09-0128R,
13 which said in pertinent part, “The importance of constructive activities and supervised play
14 cannot be understated; particularly to youth in socioeconomically disadvantaged
15 neighborhoods...urban parks and recreational facilities often serve the most at-risk children who
16 lack quality open space and recreational facilities immediately near their homes. Summer
17 basketball leagues, after-school programs, and many other activities offer constructive
18 alternatives to gangs, drugs, and crime.”

19 **WHEREAS**, even when times are tough, we have to be willing to spend our resources on long-
20 term solutions, or the problems will never go away. Recreation centers, libraries, summer jobs
21 programs and other after-school programming are the tools which city government has available
22 to prevent not just crime but criminals.

23 **WHEREAS**, the Baltimore Sun opined in an October 13, 2011 editorial: “Baltimore should
24 not start closing rec centers. Although the issue is frequently discussed in the context of the city's
25 budget problems, the mayor's plan has very little fiscal impact because it combines shutting
26 some centers with improving services at others. The task force estimated it would only save
27 \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year and that the money should be plowed back into improving the
28 remaining centers.”

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

Council Bill 11-0327R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
2 Director of Recreation and Parks and the head of the Bureau of Recreation are hereby requested
3 to appear before the City Council to discuss the status of the City's 61 recreation facilities - 5 of
4 which are already closed - and the disposition of the 31 recreation centers that are not currently
5 funded for operation beyond December 31, 2011.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Director of Recreation and Parks, the head of the Bureau of Recreation, the Director of Finance,
8 the Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.