

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0239R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Scott, Costello, Branch, Middleton, Henry, Stokes,
Kraft, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, President Young, Councilmembers Curran, Welch

Introduced and read first time: June 22, 2015

Assigned to: Health Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: September 21, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**1 Informational Hearing – Baltimore City’s Efforts to Make Homelessness a Rare and Brief
2 Experience**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the City agencies engaged in the struggle
4 against homelessness to appear before the City Council to update it on the City’s efforts to
5 make homelessness a rare and brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where
6 improvements can be made in best utilizing the City’s partnerships and resources to meet this
7 goal.

8 Recitals

9 Homelessness and the complicated conditions that create and maintain it – poverty, a dearth
10 of housing available to low income households, and a lack of health and supportive services –
11 remain serious problems throughout our nation and here in Baltimore. The work to make
12 homelessness a rare and brief experience requires constant effort and adaptation to changing
13 conditions.

14 Baltimore’s efforts to aid our homeless population, estimated at more than 2600 on any given
15 night, are multifaceted and spread among a number of City agencies and programs. The City
16 must also work in partnership with many other government agencies on the local, State, and
17 Federal levels, as well as with private service providers, in order to effectively address the many
18 issues that must be considered by any attempt to combat homelessness.

19 Since homelessness is a persistent problem that is too often ignored, it is important that the
20 Council make every effort to keep it at the forefront of decision makers’ minds. With too few
21 resources allocated to this complicated issue, it is vitally important to ensure that all of those
22 resources are being employed in the most effective way possible.

23 Homelessness is a problem that requires constant engagement, cooperative efforts amongst
24 many stakeholders, and a focused approach to making use of scant resources where they can do
25 the most good. Periodic discussions about how well the City’s approach meets these principles
26 and where improvements can be made are essential if Baltimore is ever to achieve its goal of
27 making homelessness a rare and brief experience.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council calls on representatives from the City agencies engaged in the struggle against
3 homelessness to appear before it to update the Council on the City's efforts to make
4 homelessness a rare and brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where improvements can
5 be made in best utilizing the City's partnerships and resources to meet this goal.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Director of the Mayor's Office of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Journey Home,
8 the Health Commissioner, the President and CEO of Health Care for the Homeless, Associated
9 Catholic Charities, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.