

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0244R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Schleifer, Bullock, Henry, McCray, Clarke,
Middleton, Pinkett, Stokes, Sneed, Reisinger, Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey

Introduced and read first time: August 17, 2020

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department,
Police Department, Department of Housing and Community Development, Mayor

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Explosion on Labyrinth Road**

3 FOR the purpose of mourning the lives lost in the explosion on Labyrinth Road, wishing for the
4 swift recovery of the other individuals injured in the explosion on Labyrinth Road,
5 recognizing the bravery of the responders to the explosion, thanking those who assisted in
6 coordination efforts in response to the explosion, and calling for continuation of the public
7 investigation regarding the explosion and a briefing on the investigation's findings once the
8 investigation has concluded.

9 **Recitals**

10 **WHEREAS**, At approximately 10 AM on Monday, August 10, 2020, an explosion occurred on
11 the 4200 block of Labyrinth Road;

12 **WHEREAS**, The blast killed 2 City residents and directly injured 7 other individuals;

13 **WHEREAS**, The blast destroyed at least 3 homes and caused minor to significant damage to
14 other homes in the surrounding area;

15 **WHEREAS**, Good Samaritans rushed to rescue their trapped neighbors and provide initial
16 assistance;

17 **WHEREAS**, First Responders from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County
18 responded to secure the area and conduct rescue operations;

19 **WHEREAS**, Many homes were deemed uninhabitable due to the blast, and electricity was cut
20 off for many residents after the blast, forcing many residents to seek temporary housing and other
21 resources;

22 **WHEREAS**, Community members, the business community, the Red Cross, and others
23 supported affected residents by providing thousands of donations of food, water, volunteer
24 hours, and other supplies and services during this crisis;

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, As of 1 week after the deadly explosion, the cause remains unknown, and a
2 public investigation must proceed diligently and with great urgency, as the possibility of another
3 tragic explosion is a clear and present danger to Baltimore;

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
5 Council mourns for the 2 lives lost in the explosion and sends wishes for a swift recovery to the
6 other individuals injured in the explosion;

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
8 Council recognizes the courageous actions of the residents in the immediate community who
9 rescued their neighbors from the debris;

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council recognizes the tremendous support
11 for and needed aid and relief provided to victims of the blast by local residents, community
12 groups, churches, and the Red Cross.
13

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council recognizes the effective coordination
15 of City agencies in responding to the explosion and its aftermath.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council recognizes and appreciates the
17 support from the Baltimore County and Howard County governments for their assistance in
18 response to the explosion.

19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council calls for the continuation of the full
20 investigation into the cause of the explosion and requests a public briefing of the investigation's
21 findings when the investigation has concluded.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Fire
23 Chief, the Police Commissioner, the Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management,
24 the County Executive of Howard County, the County Executive of Baltimore County, and the
25 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.