

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0288R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, D’Adamo, Kraft, Curran, Holton, Crider, Middleton,
Clarke, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Harris, Spector, Reisinger, Mitchell
Introduced and read first time: April 23, 2007

Assigned to: Public Safety Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner, Mayor’s Office of Criminal
Justice

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Gun Violence**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore Police Commissioner to report to the City Council
4 on the incidence of gun violence in Baltimore City; to discuss the factors that may be
5 contributing to gun related crime and the nature of the perpetrators; and to share the crime
6 reduction strategies that are planned to stem the tide of gun violence that threatens to overtake
7 Baltimore’s residential neighborhoods.

8 **Recitals**

- 9 • January 1, 2007: PATTERNS PERSIST IN CITY HOMICIDES AND SHOOTINGS –
10 VICTIMS, SUSPECTS USUALLY BLACK MEN WITH LONG CRIMINAL
11 HISTORIES – RATE IS AMONG HIGHEST IN U.S.
- 12 • January 9, 2007: CITY HOMICIDE COUNT RISES TO 9 – POLICE IDENTIFY THREE
13 VICTIMS OF RECENT VIOLENCE – MAN ARRESTED IN FATAL BEATING
- 14 • March 24, 2007: CITY HOMICIDES, SHOOTINGS RISE – SO FAR, 64 PEOPLE
15 KILLED IN ‘07 COMPARED WITH 58 IN ‘06 – FIGURES SHOW DROP IN
16 ROBBERIES, ASSAULTS
- 17 • April 2, 2007: DOES BALTIMORE CITY NEED MORE POLICE?
- 18 • April 4, 2007: MURDER INK: MURDERS THIS WEEK: 6 – MURDERS THIS YEAR:
19 71.

20 These are the leads to newspaper stories that have greeted crime weary and worried Baltimore
21 City residents each morning since the dawning of the new year. The question reverberates –
22 what can be done?

23 In the January 2005, document, *The Mission of Every Member of the Baltimore Police*
24 *Department is the Same, Regardless of Assignment: Reduce violent crime through targeted*
25 *proactive enforcement*, outlining the Baltimore Police Department’s crime fighting strategy, it is
26 stated, in part, that through a consistency of purpose, the Police Department has the ability to

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

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1 reduce homicides and shootings and that these acts of violence can and will be prevented by a
2 departmental re-focus of its deployment, an emphasis on a return to basics, and intense work
3 toward achieving the goals of:

- 4 • Reduce violence with a focus on homicides and shootings.
- 5 • Remove guns from the street
- 6 • Reduce juvenile crime
- 7 • Return open spaces to law-abiding citizens
- 8 • Operate with integrity and professionalism.

9 The Overview of the Plan of Action states that the primary focus of the Baltimore Police
10 Department is to eradicate violence and the conditions that contribute to violence in the Eastern,
11 Western, and Northwestern Districts, and, further, that “Once the flag is planted and those
12 districts are stabilized, the Department will hold that territory. The Department will not pay two,
13 three, and four times for the same real estate.”

14 In the semantics of the Police Department document, the time has come to revisit the “real
15 estate” – peace and tranquility have become an absentee landlord, and the tenants of death and
16 destruction are threatening to take up permanent residence.

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
18 Baltimore Police Commissioner to report to the City Council on the incidence of gun violence in
19 Baltimore City; to discuss the factors that may be contributing to gun related crime and the nature
20 of the perpetrators; and to share the crime reduction strategies that are planned to stem the tide of
21 gun violence that threatens to overtake Baltimore’s residential neighborhoods.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
23 Baltimore Police Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.