

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0054R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Branch, Henry, Holton, Middleton, Curran, Stokes, Mosby,
President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Spector, Welch, Kraft, Reisinger, Cole, Clarke
Introduced and read first time: June 11, 2012

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department, Baltimore City Public School
System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Prohibiting Racial Profiling**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Police Department and Baltimore City
4 Public Schools to appear before the Council to discuss the problem of racial profiling and to
5 explore how to better address this problem through the expansion or creation of effective
6 anti-profiling education programs.

7 **Recitals**

8 Racial profiling targeting individuals for suspicion of crime based on race, ethnicity, religion
9 or national origin has undermined relations between law enforcement agencies and communities
10 for far too long. According to ACLU reports, it remains prevalent throughout our nation and
11 contributes to many unwarranted detentions, deaths, and other abuses every year.

12 Particularly egregious instances of racial profiling in recent years have drawn widespread
13 condemnation of the practice and have led to efforts on both the state and federal level to combat
14 it with legislation. Bills have been introduced in Congress to ban racial profiling by law
15 enforcement personnel, and efforts to develop education programs to root out the baseless
16 prejudices that underlie profiling have been discussed.

17 However, with the proposed federal legislation stalled in committee, and the State declining
18 to make anti-profiling training mandatory, there is a need for action on the local level to address
19 the many problems caused by racial profiling. This is especially true in places like Baltimore
20 where tension between law enforcement and minority communities has historically been a
21 problem.

22 Education programs and outreach efforts involving both law enforcement personnel and
23 community members have proven to be effective at reducing profiling and improving
24 connections between officers and the citizens they serve. Here in Baltimore, local activists have
25 embarked on grass roots education efforts such as the Choices and Consequences program and
26 the Perceptions and Assumptions seminars. These programs deserve more support, and greater
27 efforts should be made to ensure that police officers and our young people have more exposure to
28 programs that can effectively break down the barriers between them.

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

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1 More can and should be done to end the practice of racial profiling throughout the United
2 States. Until this brand of discrimination has been entirely eradicated, every level of
3 government, including this Council, must do everything it can to hasten its demise by fostering
4 greater understanding between law enforcement personnel and the communities that suffer every
5 day because of racial profiling.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
7 Council calls on representatives from the Police Department and Baltimore City Public Schools
8 to appear before it to discuss the problem of racial profiling and to explore how to better address
9 this problem through the expansion or creation of effective anti-profiling education programs.

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
11 Police Commissioner, the Director of the Mayor’s Office on Criminal Justice, the CEO of
12 Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.