

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0301R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Young, D’Adamo, Kraft, Curran,
Holton, Clarke, Reisinger, Conaway, Mitchell, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: June 4, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Community Task Force on Police Auxiliary Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Community Task Force to develop a Police Auxiliary Unit that
4 will provide civilians, retired law enforcement officers, and off-duty police officers to assist
5 or replace police officers in the performance of those duties that can be performed by others,
6 including persons without law enforcement training, to free up Baltimore City police officers
7 to return to crime reduction activities in Baltimore’s imperiled neighborhoods.

8 **Recitals**

9 The National Police Athletics/Activities Leagues, Inc., states that PAL programs across the
10 country have been created as a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic,
11 and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youths,
12 based on the conviction that young people – if they are reached early enough – can develop
13 strong positive attitudes towards police officers in their journey through life toward the goals of
14 maturity and good citizenship. The PAL program brings youth under the supervision and
15 positive influence of a law enforcement agency and expands public awareness about the role of a
16 police officer and the reinforcement of the responsible values and attitudes instilled in young
17 people by their parents.

18 The Baltimore City Police Athletic League program, begun in 1995, is known as a national
19 model for the PAL program, reducing victimization and juvenile crime by allowing young
20 people to interact with police officers in a positive setting, while participating in constructive
21 alternatives to anti-social behavior and boredom. Working and serving as role models and
22 mentors, Police Officers, Community Service Officers, parents, and volunteers create a “healthy”
23 atmosphere that fosters trust and mutual respect between youth and adult authority figures.
24 There are on average 2 PAL centers in each of the 9 Police Districts – the Southeastern District
25 has 1, and there are 3 in the Southern District.

26 The staffing patterns at the Baltimore PAL centers currently provide for 2 officers in each
27 center – 12 of the 18 centers are staffed by 1 sworn officer and 1 retired officer, with the other 6
28 centers being staffed by 2 sworn officers. PAL center and departmental rules mandate that at
29 least 1 sworn officer be on the premises at all times when the centers are open.

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

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1 The Community Task Force on Police Auxiliary Assistance is formed to offer assistance in
2 instances, such as those of PAL center staffing. By providing 2 person replacement teams of 1
3 retired police officer coupled with another qualified civilian, the Task Force will create the
4 opportunity for sworn officers to return to active crime reduction activities against violent
5 criminals in our City neighborhoods.

6 The Community Task Force on Police Auxiliary Assistance will include, but not be limited
7 to:

- 8 • the Baltimore Police Commissioner or a designee;
- 9 • a member of the general public from each City Council District; and
- 10 • the Director of Recreation and Parks or a designee.

11 The creation of this Task Force is a tangible demonstration of the communities' belief that
12 fighting crime is a shared responsibility and not just the duty of sworn officers who risk their
13 lives to protect and serve. By working together to find ways to assist the police, the community
14 is making an investment in securing a better quality of life in the present and a safe and secure
15 existence in the future – an outcome in which everyone in Baltimore City shares an equal vested
16 interest.

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
18 Community Task Force is created to develop a Police Auxiliary Unit that will provide civilians,
19 retired law enforcement officers, and off-duty police officers to assist or replace police officers
20 in the performance of those duties that can be performed by others, including persons without
21 law enforcement training, to free up Baltimore City police officers to return to crime reduction
22 activities in Baltimore's imperiled neighborhoods.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
24 Baltimore City Police Commissioner, the Director of Recreation and Parks, and the Mayor's
25 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.