

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0298R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Branch, Middleton, President Young, Councilmembers
Clarke, Spector, Welch, D'Adamo, Curran, Henry, Reisinger, Stokes, Holton, Conaway
Introduced and adopted: June 13, 2011

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**The Promotion of Community Safety and Trust Between Baltimore City Residents and
Local Law Enforcement Agencies**

FOR the purpose of expressing opposition to the Secure Communities Initiative and urging the
Maryland Delegation to the 112th Congress to call for a suspension of the program pending a
complete Congressional review.

Recitals

The City of Baltimore has long been home to immigrants from around the world, who come
here seeking freedom from religious and political persecution, an opportunity for financial
stability, and a better future for their families. The City Council of Baltimore believes in the
dignity of all of its residents and recognizes the important social, religious, cultural, and
economic contributions that immigrants make to the City of Baltimore. It is incumbent upon us
to ensure that the newest members of our community are extended the same rights and
protections the rest of us seek to preserve and enjoy.

The Secure Communities Initiative is a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
(ICE) program which requires local law enforcement agencies to submit the fingerprints of all
arrested individuals to the Department of Homeland Security for verification of an individual's
immigration status, regardless of the outcome of their arrest. This Initiative has not been
effective in targeting serious criminals -- since its inception in the State of Maryland, 83 percent
of all immigrants deported by ICE through this program as of February 2011 have no serious
criminal convictions. As of March 31st, 2011, 63 percent have been classified as non-criminals.

The City Council of Baltimore is concerned that participation in the Secure Communities
Initiative will create divisions in our communities, promote a culture of fear, and discourage trust
between local law enforcement and immigrant communities throughout the City. This trust,
along with the open and free communication between citizens and law enforcement that it
fosters, is vital to promoting public safety within the City of Baltimore. It is essential that
residents throughout the City of Baltimore be allowed to interact with local law enforcement
without fear based on actual or perceived race, national origin, ethnicity, or immigration status
discrimination.

This Council has an established legislative record that encourages respect for the immigrant
members of our community. City Council Resolution 03-0998R, passed in 2003, urges local law
enforcement to "refrain from enforcing immigration matters, which are entirely Homeland
Security Department's responsibility." City Council Resolution 10-0210R, passed in 2010,

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

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1 opposes “the introduction of anti-immigration law in Maryland that criminalizes immigration
2 and encourages racial profiling.”

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
4 Body opposes the Secure Communities Initiative and urges the Maryland Delegation to the 112th
5 Congress to call for a suspension of the program pending a complete Congressional review.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
7 Members of the Maryland Delegation to the 112th Congress, the Honorable Chairs and Members
8 of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2012 Session of the Maryland
9 General Assembly, the President of the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP, the Baltimore City
10 Hispanic Commission, the Board of Directors of CASA de Maryland, and the Mayor's
11 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.