

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 06-0148R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Harris, Mitchell, Holton, Young, Curran, Welch, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2006

Assigned to: Public Safety Subcommittee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **The Ad Hoc Committee for Collegiate Nonpartisan**  
3 **Audit of Baltimore City Crime Statistics**

4 FOR the purpose of calling upon the Presidents of Coppin State College, The Johns Hopkins  
5 University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland to assist the citizens of  
6 Baltimore by forming an ad hoc committee to perform an independent audit of Baltimore  
7 Police Department procedures for the collection of crime statistics to determine the accuracy  
8 and timeliness of the data reported, to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of statistical data  
9 in identifying areas of concentrated criminal activity, and to appraise the ability of  
10 departmental personnel to translate the statistical findings into innovative and competent  
11 policies that have a real effect in lowering the incidents of criminal activity citywide.

12 **Recitals**

13 The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), funded by the United States Department  
14 of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, has been collecting data on personal and household  
15 victimization through an ongoing survey of a nationally-representative sample of residential  
16 addresses since 1973. The NCVS, one of the nation's ongoing household surveys, provides  
17 information on how many rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, assaults, thefts, household burglaries,  
18 and motor vehicle thefts U.S. residents age 12 or older and their households are experiencing  
19 each year.

20 Recently, it was reported that the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, along  
21 with agencies in states and localities across the country, will administer a grant to fund a study  
22 that will examine 1 year of police records in 4 subdivisions in Maryland, including Baltimore  
23 City, to determine if violent crime statistics are being accurately reported in response to The  
24 National Victimization Survey of 2004 that indicated a nationwide inaccurate reporting of  
25 certain violent crimes. According to state officials, the study will help ensure that victims of  
26 violent crimes file reports and that local jurisdictions accurately track reports of violent crime.

27 Baltimore City officials' claim of leading the nation with a nearly 40% reduction in violent  
28 crime from 1999-2004 has been assailed as an inflated assessment based on an inaccurate  
29 calculation of statistics on violent crime – homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault –  
30 and that a more accurate estimate, based on a comparison of like data, would show a decrease of

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

1 only 23.5% in violent crime, putting the City in 6<sup>th</sup> place in crime reduction among America's  
2 largest cities.

3 The public wrangling by elected and appointed officials over who is presenting accurate and  
4 statistically sound crime data has led the general public to be wary of any information – whether  
5 it indicates Baltimore's crime rate is waxing or waning. To the residents of Baltimore City,  
6 particularly those struggling to survive in crime-ridden areas and those who have been the victim  
7 of or have lost loved ones to violent crime, whether the City is in 1<sup>st</sup> place or 6<sup>th</sup> place has little  
8 real-life significance.

9 The general public needs to know whether or not their city is a safer place to live, whether or  
10 not their children can safely go to school and play in their neighborhoods, and whether or not  
11 their investment in the City's future will be protected. An independent audit of crime statistics  
12 by culturally diverse institutions of unimpeachable academic integrity will ensure that Baltimore  
13 is accurately reporting the public safety health of our City and, more importantly, signal to our  
14 citizens what needs to be done to further ensure the safety of their families and their  
15 communities.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
17 Body hereby urgently calls upon the Presidents of Coppin State College, The Johns Hopkins  
18 University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland to assist the citizens of  
19 Baltimore by forming an ad hoc committee to perform an independent audit of Baltimore Police  
20 Department procedures for the collection of crime statistics to determine the accuracy and  
21 timeliness of the data reported, to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of statistical data in  
22 identifying areas of concentrated criminal activity, and to appraise the ability of departmental  
23 personnel to translate the statistical findings into innovative and competent policies that have a  
24 real effect in lowering the incidents of criminal activity citywide.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
26 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006  
27 Maryland General Assembly, Presidents of Coppin State College, The Johns Hopkins  
28 University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland, the Baltimore Police  
29 Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations, and the  
30 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.