

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0135R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Cole, Branch, Kraft, D’Adamo, Middleton, Clarke,
Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: June 15, 2009

Assigned to: Community Development Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Planning Department, Department of Housing and
Community Development, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Vacant Property Security, Inc.**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Regional Sales Manager of Baltimore-Washington Vacant
4 Property Security, Inc., to make a presentation to the City Council on services to provide
5 temporary security for vacant and abandoned properties that the company offers.

6 **Recitals**

7 Information provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development shows
8 that there are nearly 30,000 abandoned properties in Baltimore City. The City currently owns
9 nearly 10,000 vacant properties, 1/3 of all vacant property in the City. Approximately 4,000 City-
10 owned vacant properties are vacant structures.

11 Vacant Property Security (VPS) is a worldwide leader in the protection and management of
12 vacant properties, and it aims to build an integrated property services group focused on the
13 temporary protection, improvement, and renovation of those properties. The company provides
14 a unique security system of heavy gauge, perforated steel window screens and steel doors.

15 The VPS solution to vacant property security consists of:

- 16 • Attractively-designed, modular steel-plated doors
- 17 • Steel window screens that permit outside light and ventilation flow-through for
- 18 contractors and prospective buyers
- 19 • Adjustable steel sheeting for doors and windows
- 20 • Cleaning and maintenance for the inside and outside of the property.

21 As stated by Housing officials, “abandoned properties drain money from innocent
22 homeowners, cost the City money, and reduce the quality of life in affected neighborhoods.”
23 VPS currently successfully provides services for single family, multi-family, and commercial
24 properties in over 16 urban areas, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia,
25 Atlanta, and Washington D.C., and here in Baltimore it should be considered as a possible
26 solution to the relentless problem of vacant housing that exists for Baltimore City government.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
2 Regional Sales Manager of Baltimore-Washington Vacant Property Security, Inc. is cordially
3 invited to make a presentation to the City Council on the services to provide temporary security
4 for vacant and abandoned properties that the company offers.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Commissioner of Housing and Community
6 Development is invited to attend the hearing and to assess the efficacy of VPS's services to
7 address Baltimore City's vacant housing problem.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 Regional Sales Manager of Baltimore-Washington Vacant Property Security, Inc., the
10 Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Planning, the Director
11 of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City
12 Council.