

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0140R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Clarke, Middleton, Henry,

D'Adamo, Kraft, Young, Welch, Branch, Reisinger, Cole, Holton, Conaway

Introduced and read first time: July 13, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Planning Department, Health Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the CEO of Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems to share with the  
4 City Council the current operational and fiscal status of the health and social services  
5 corporation; and the forecast for the future continuation of delivery of health care and human  
6 services to the some of the most needy residents of Baltimore City.

7 **Recitals**

8 The CEO's message is: "Bon Secours Baltimore Health System is part of a national health  
9 corporation sponsored by Bon Secours Ministries that strives to fulfill the mission of the sisters  
10 of Bon Secours to help people and communities to health and wholeness by providing  
11 compassionate, quality healthcare and being "good help" to all in need in West Baltimore, with  
12 special concern for the poor and dying. Our mission empowers us to embrace physical,  
13 emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and communities as we help them achieve  
14 wholeness."

15 The historic Bon Secours Hospital, which has 142 acute care beds, has deep roots in West  
16 Baltimore in a community whose institutions have vanished – Bon Secours took over West  
17 Baltimore's failing Liberty Medical Center in 1996. Liberty Medical Center was the outgrowth  
18 of the former Provident Hospital, an institution in Baltimore and once the only Baltimore City  
19 hospital that trained black nurses and doctors.

20 Media reports that Bon Secours officials were asking the State for \$5 million in April 2009,  
21 to keep the hospital afloat for a year while a new strategy was devised to offer health care to the  
22 surrounding community that virtually has no primary care practices and whose residents "clog  
23 the emergency room as if it's their private doctor's office" were accompanied by reports that the  
24 new CEO was working to address inefficiencies in the health care system that had lost \$22  
25 million the previous year and was continuing to have problems sustaining a profit in a  
26 community where most of its patients are poor, very sick, and without insurance.

27 The request for State aide came at the same time that the CEO was taking under serious  
28 consideration the very real possibility that the hospital might have to consider closure, if unable  
29 to achieve financial turnaround. Bon Secours officials also reportedly began a series of meetings

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

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1 with neighboring hospitals, health care leaders, and community advocates to discuss a new  
2 health care model for the community that will focus on the community’s most pressing needs –  
3 primary care and assisting patients with chronic medical problems to help manage their diseases.

4 Bon Secours is a vital part of the community it serves, offering services to residents that  
5 include some of the City’s sickest citizens, with high rates of heart disease, diabetes, AIDS and  
6 infant mortality. In the emergency room, a diverse population is cared for – from people with  
7 chronic diabetes, renal failure, and asthma to drug addicts, psychiatric patients, and the homeless  
8 who converge on the waiting room seeking shelter from the cold or heat.

9 In carrying out its mission of eight core values: Respect, Justice, Integrity, Stewardship,  
10 Innovation, Compassion, Quality, and Growth, the Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems has  
11 rendered compassionate care to a community that has little, if any, alternatives for meeting the  
12 health and social needs of its residents. It is imperative that a continuum of care be maintained  
13 for the people of this West Baltimore neighborhood – whether by retaining Bon Secours or by  
14 finding a viable alternative.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the CEO  
16 of Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems is invited to share with the City Council the current  
17 operational and fiscal status of the health and social services corporation; and the forecast for the  
18 future continuation of delivery of health care and human services to the some of the most needy  
19 residents of Baltimore City.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
21 CEO of Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the  
22 Director of Planning, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, and the Mayor’s  
23 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.