

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0225R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, D’Adamo, President Dixon, Councilmembers Harris,
Reisinger, Curran, Young, Welch, Branch, Holton

Introduced and read first time: October 16, 2006

Assigned to: Economic Development and Public Financing Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Planning Commission, Department of Transportation,
Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Housing and Community Development

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – BRAC Readiness**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of
4 the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Planning, and the
5 Chair of the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the Council on what steps are being
6 taken to prepare Baltimore City for the influx of military and defense personnel that will be
7 coming to the Baltimore region as a result of the decisions by the Base Realignment and
8 Closure Committee.

9 **Recitals**

10 According to recent reports, the Base Realignment and Closure plan could bring as many as
11 40,000 jobs to Maryland as a result of expansions at Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County and
12 the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County. According to business and government
13 officials, Baltimore City could play a significant role in the BRAC process due to its housing,
14 public transit, and cultural amenities.

15 This is of paramount importance because not only are the bases adding military personnel,
16 but BRAC also reports additions to the ancillary civilian population as a result of the base
17 consolidations. Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Harford County is adding a total of 9,154
18 military, civilian and embedded contractors to their facility. This implies an additional gain of
19 15,562 household members coming to the area. In addition, Fort Meade is adding an estimated
20 8,717 to 10,717 additional personnel. Their personnel would bring an estimated 10,000 to
21 15,000 household members with them.

22 With this population growth to our immediate surroundings, the City must be sure that our
23 current infrastructure is ready. While part of the burden of major issues like housing and transit
24 will be felt directly by neighboring jurisdictions, Baltimore City will as a matter of course will
25 feel the implications of a population growth spurt of nearly 50,000. One recent analysis by area
26 economist Aniran Basu noted that given the “anti-growth” sentiment, as well as other issues in
27 our surrounding suburbs, there is a genuine question as to where the relocated people are going
28 to settle. Given that Baltimore is a natural possibility as a location for people to settle, the City
29 Council must ensure that there is some plan in place for accommodating these new residents both
30 in our housing structure and in our overall transportation structure.

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

Council Bill 06-0225R

1 Additionally, the BDC and other City agencies should make the City Council aware of any
2 efforts in luring these potential new residents to our city. In a memorandum dated September 21,
3 2006, Michael Hayes, Director of the Office of Military Affairs for the Maryland DBED, stated
4 “The City of Baltimore is also developing plans to demonstrate to potential employees
5 associated with Fort Meade and Aberdeen that it presents attractive housing and business
6 location opportunities.” It should be the prerogative of the City Council to know these plans and
7 how they will affect our current citizens, as well as to be given the chance to offer some
8 feedback.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
10 Body requests the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department
11 of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Planning, and the Chair of the
12 Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the Council on what steps are being taken to
13 prepare Baltimore City for the influx of military and defense personnel that will be coming to the
14 Baltimore region as a result of the decisions by the Base Realignment and Closure Committee.

15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
16 Director of Transportation, the Director of Housing and Community Development, the Director
17 of Planning, the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the
18 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.