

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0173R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Branch, Henry, Holton, Spector, Middleton, Welch, Clarke,
Reisinger, Cole, Curran, Kraft, President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Stokes
Introduced and read first time: May 12, 2014
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: September 8, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 Informational Hearing – New Citywide Street Sweeping Plan

2 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Department of Public Works’ Solid Waste
3 Bureau and the Department of Transportation to appear before the Council to discuss the new
4 citywide street sweeping plan, the lessons that can be drawn from its early operations, and
5 what steps can be taken to more fully educate communities about the new plan.

6 Recitals

7 Last month marked the debut of Baltimore’s new citywide street sweeping efforts that will
8 bring mechanical street sweeping to many neighborhoods where it has never before been seen.
9 The new program, designed to be revenue neutral, has added roughly 76,000 street miles to the
10 previous street sweeping zones and has so far met with mixed success.

11 On the plus side, last month more than 400 tons of trash were removed from Baltimore’s
12 streets on the new routes, an increase of nearly 50% over the average month on just the old routes
13 last year. City street sweepers were used more efficiently, sweeping streets throughout Baltimore
14 on carefully plotted routes designed to maximize usage rather than skipping from zone to zone
15 without cleaning any intervening territory as had been done in the past.

16 However, some neighborhoods that were told to expect street sweeping reportedly never saw
17 the machines, and others had them appear with no warning that would have let residents move
18 their cars to allow cleaning of their blocks. Sweeping was impaired by both mechanical
19 problems resulting from years of caked on grime and stretches where parked cars made entire
20 areas unsweepable. Some drivers deviated from their routes in order to double or triple sweep
21 problem areas and never reached others.

22 While some of these problems can simply be chalked up to the inevitable growing pains of
23 any new endeavor, they do raise questions about just how to define success for this initiative and
24 what more could be done to ensure that the City gets the maximum possible benefit from these
25 new efforts. It is therefore important to have a full public discussion about the purpose and goals
26 of this new plan, how the process will be regulated, and what additional steps can be taken to
27 fully educate all communities on how they can participate in the new street cleaning efforts.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council calls on representatives from the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Bureau and
3 the Department of Transportation to appear before it to discuss the new citywide street sweeping
4 plan, the lessons that can be drawn from its early operations, and what steps can be taken to more
5 fully educate communities about the new plan.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Director of Public Works, the Director of Transportation, the Chief of the Department of Public
8 Works' Bureau of Solid Waste, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.