

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0054R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Gray, Porter, and Torrence
Cosponsored by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Middleton, Bullock, Blanchard,
and Jones

Introduced and read first time: June 8, 2026

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore Police Department, Office of the State's
Attorney for Baltimore City, Police Accountability Board, Sheriff's Office

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Law Enforcement Asset Forfeiture**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Baltimore Police Department, and inviting the Office of the
4 State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Police Accountability Board, the Baltimore City
5 Sheriff's Office, and relevant stakeholders to appear before the City Council to discuss
6 Baltimore City law enforcement's policies and procedures for safeguarding, accounting for,
7 and disposing of property, including money, that it confiscates during the course of its work.

8 **Recitals**

9 Asset forfeiture, the process of confiscating property associated with a crime, is used by law
10 enforcement as a means to deter criminal conduct. Property may be seized in this manner if there
11 is probable cause to believe that the property is the proceeds of a crime, or has been or will be
12 used to commit a crime. While asset forfeiture can be a deterrent and a means of gaining
13 restitution for victims, it must be practiced with very clear procedures and precise record-keeping
14 to minimize the risk of fraud or loss of property.

15 The Maryland General Assembly's 2021 audit of the Baltimore Police Department's (BPD)
16 asset forfeiture practices found that BPD's policies for safeguarding, accounting for, and
17 disposing of confiscated property and money were inadequate. BPD's policies did not include
18 clear procedures for inventory tracking of seized items and funds, including a lack of critical data
19 collection related to firearms. The City Council wishes to learn what corrective actions BPD has
20 taken after the General Assembly audit, and what its current practices are to protect, track, and
21 dispose of property and money seized in asset forfeiture.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
23 Council requires the Baltimore Police Department, and invites the Office of the State's Attorney
24 for Baltimore City, the Police Accountability Board, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, and
25 relevant stakeholders to appear before the City Council to discuss Baltimore City law
26 enforcement's policies and procedures for safeguarding, accounting for, and disposing of
27 property, including money, that it confiscates during the course of its work.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 26-0054R

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
2 of the Baltimore Police Department, the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City
3 Sheriff, the members of the Police Accountability Board, and the Mayor’s legislative liaison to
4 the City Council.