

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0139R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Young, Branch, Welch

Introduced and read first time: July 13, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Baltimore Police Department -**  
3 **Dismissal of Misconduct Cases**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the Baltimore Police Commissioner to report to the City Council on  
5 the recent mass dismissal of internal misconduct cases involving city police officers and to  
6 explain the Police Department's procedures for handling such discrimination cases and  
7 misconduct complaints.

8 **Recitals**

9 The Baltimore Police Department has long recognized the importance of having a well  
10 established internal process for resolving allegations of police misconduct. The integrity of this  
11 process and the public's recognition of its fairness is essential to maintaining the trust of the  
12 citizens of Baltimore in the Department that is necessary for the effective functioning of police  
13 officers in our community.

14 However, recent events and media reports have undermined the public image of the  
15 Department's internal misconduct investigation process. The April firing of a high level official  
16 in the internal misconduct system and the subsequent dismissal of what media reports indicate to  
17 be more than 80% of all then pending misconduct cases has brought the Department's  
18 misconduct resolution process a great deal of negative attention. These events have led to the  
19 publication of charges and countercharges of malfeasance related to the police misconduct  
20 resolution process against both current and former Department officials, as well as individual  
21 police officers. There have also been public threats of legal action against the City arising from  
22 these mass dismissals.

23 Presently, the Department has disclosed only that a number of internal misconduct cases  
24 have been dropped due to "administrative concerns". The nature of those concerns, who may  
25 have been responsible for the actions that led to them, and precisely which cases have been  
26 dismissed due to these concerns have not been disclosed to the public.

27 The possibility that concerns relating to the mass dismissal of these misconduct charges may  
28 cause the Department to lose the confidence of the people can best be addressed through greater  
29 transparency. It is therefore necessary to set the record straight about what cases were dismissed  
30 and precisely what "administrative concerns" led to their dismissal. It is also necessary to bring

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

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1 to light what procedures broke down to allow these administrative issues to arise and what steps  
2 the Department has taken to ensure that similar issues do not arise again in the future.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
4 Baltimore Police Commissioner is requested to report to the City Council on the recent mass  
5 dismissal of internal misconduct cases involving city police officers and to explain the Police  
6 Department's procedures for handling such discrimination cases and misconduct complaints.

7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
8 Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the  
9 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.