

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0064R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Porter, Bullock, Middleton, Cohen, Torrence, Glover

Introduced and read first time: October 4, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Planning, Department of Health, Department of Housing and Community Development, Baltimore Police Department, Office of the City Administrator, Office of Sustainability, Environmental Control Board

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigational Hearing - Urban Farming**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the City Solicitor and representatives from the Office of the City
4 Administrator, the Department of Housing and Community Development's Code
5 Enforcement Division, the Baltimore City Health Department's Office of Animal Control, the
6 Baltimore Police Department, the Environmental Control Board, the Department of Planning,
7 and other relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council regard the standards, procedures,
8 policies, and practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City, and to discuss possible
9 revisions of current standards to allow urban farms to operate safely and successfully in
10 Baltimore City.

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 there were more than 100 community and school gardens and more than
12 20 urban farms in Baltimore City;

13 **WHEREAS**, urban farming greatly benefits Baltimore City by providing nutrition education,
14 natural ecosystem enhancement, and increased neighborhood vitality;

15 **WHEREAS**, in the 2019 Baltimore City Sustainability Plan, the City prioritized protecting and
16 supporting urban farms so they can continue to offer residents the ability to take charge of local
17 food production, increase their connection to the source of their food, and experience the many
18 holistic benefits of urban farming;

19 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City has committed to agricultural land-use policies that encourage
20 urban farms and local food production; and

21 **WHEREAS**, it is to the benefit of Baltimore and its residents for City agencies to pursue
22 policies that ensure urban farms are operating in a safe and legal manner, without removing these
23 valuable resources from the communities they serve.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
2 Baltimore City Council invites the City Solicitor and representatives from the Office of the City
3 Administrator, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Code Enforcement
4 Division, the Baltimore City Health Department’s Office of Animal Control, the Baltimore
5 Police Department, the Environmental Control Board, the Department of Planning, and other
6 relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council regard the standards, procedures, policies, and
7 practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City, and to discuss possible revisions of
8 current standards to allow urban farms to operate safely and successfully in Baltimore City.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the City Solicitor,
10 the City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community
11 Development, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Police Commissioner, the Executive
12 Director of the Environmental Control Board, the Director of the Department of Planning, and
13 the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.