

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 24-0219R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Introduced and read first time: May 15, 2024

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Public Works, Baltimore City Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Citywide Rat Abatement Efforts**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the
4 Department of Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development
5 to discuss citywide rat abatement efforts, including reducing the rodent population,
6 collaboration of City agencies on coordinated abatement measures, and the status of the
7 Health Department’s Bureau of Vector Control.

8 **Recitals**

9 Like all large cities, Baltimore City has long experienced problems with rats. The City’s 311
10 system averages over 100,000 calls for rat abatement annually. Rats are linked to various
11 infectious diseases, and are a blight to the health and welfare of the City’s residents and visitors.
12 The Baltimore City Council seeks a review of all efforts across City agencies concerning the
13 abatement of rats in the City.

14 In the past, the City operated a Bureau of Vector Control under the purview of the Baltimore
15 City Health Department, as well as the Interagency Sweep Team from Health, the Department of
16 Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Through this
17 hearing, the City Council requests that the Health Department, the Department of Public Works,
18 and the Department of Housing and Community Development investigate the need for a modern
19 Bureau of Vector Control and accompanying Interagency Sweep Team. To best protect the
20 health and welfare of the citizens of Baltimore, and to attract new residents and visitors, it is
21 imperative that the City and its agencies be united in the mitigation of the rodent population.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
23 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Department of
24 Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to discuss citywide
25 rat abatement efforts, including reducing the rodent population, collaboration of City agencies on
26 coordinated abatement measures, and the status of the Health Department’s Bureau of Vector
27 Control.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
2 of the Health Department, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Commissioner of
3 the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
4 to the City Council.