

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0036R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, and Ramos

Introduced and read first time: October 20, 2025

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Baltimore Police Department, Fire Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, Sheriff's Office, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the State's
4 Attorney, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the
5 Baltimore City Public School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, the
6 Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative Co-Chairs and all subcommittee Chairs, the
7 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the Maryland State
8 Police, the Maryland United States Attorney's Office, the Maryland Department of Social
9 Services, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, The Hope Center (formerly known
10 as Baltimore Child Abuse Center), BlueDOT, and other collaborators from the Baltimore
11 Human Trafficking Collaborative who provide victims of human trafficking with emergency
12 interventions and support services to brief the City Council on the scope of the human
13 trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to investigate and prosecute
14 perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be implemented to bring these
15 individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist survivors of human trafficking.

16 **Recitals**

17 According to the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF), Maryland is a hotspot
18 for human trafficking. In a survey conducted by MHTTF, victim service providers in Maryland
19 identified 396 victims of sex and labor trafficking served in 2014. Of the victims whose ages
20 were reported, 56% were children. According to a 2015 Capital News Service investigation,
21 between January 2013 and May 2015 in Baltimore City, just 10 suspects were charged with
22 human trafficking and prosecutors dropped all charges in at least 8 of those cases.

23 Maryland's central location makes it easy for perpetrators of human trafficking to use its
24 highways, bus terminals, truck stops, and airports to transport victims to cities along the East
25 Coast.

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

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1 It is imperative that we protect our most vulnerable members of society by bringing
2 perpetrators of human trafficking to justice and providing resources to those who have survived
3 human trafficking. Effective collaboration between law enforcement, advocacy groups, and
4 local, state, and federal officials will be key in protecting victims and catching perpetrators.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
6 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the State's Attorney, the
7 Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Public
8 School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, the Baltimore City Human
9 Trafficking Collaborative Co-Chairs and all subcommittee Chairs, the Federal Bureau of
10 Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland United
11 States Attorney's Office, the Maryland Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department
12 of Juvenile Services, The Hope Center (formerly known as Baltimore Child Abuse Center),
13 BlueDOT, and other collaborators from the Baltimore Human Trafficking Collaborative who
14 provide victims of human trafficking with emergency interventions and support services to brief
15 the City Council on the scope of the human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts
16 to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be
17 implemented to bring these individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist
18 survivors of human trafficking.

19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City
20 State's Attorney, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the
21 Baltimore City Public School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff, the Co-Chairs,
22 subcommittee Chairs, and all members of the Baltimore Human Trafficking Collaborative
23 including all nonprofit and federal law enforcement partners, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison
24 to the City Council.