

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0218R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Dorsey, Middleton, Clarke, President Scott,
Councilmembers Burnett, Cohen, Henry, Bullock, Pinkett
Introduced and read first time: May 11, 2020
Assigned to: Equity and Structure Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Mayor's Office, Office of Equity and Civil Rights,
Department of Transportation, Baltimore City Public School System, State's Attorney, Minority
and Women's Business and Opportunity Office, Department of Housing and Community
Development, City Solicitor, Department of Planning, Police Department, Department of
Recreation and Parks

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Recognizing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing systemic racism as a public health crisis.

4 **Recitals**

5 **WHEREAS**, Systemic racism has been an aspect of American life since the founding of this
6 country;

7 **WHEREAS**, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have declared that health is
8 determined in part by access to social and economic opportunities, and that the conditions in
9 which we live affect why the health outcomes of some Americans are better than those of others;

10 **WHEREAS**, In recent decades, scientific research has shown that racism is a fundamental
11 cause of poor health outcomes for racial minorities;

12 **WHEREAS**, Racial inequities have significant negative effects of the health outcomes of black
13 and brown residents of Baltimore City and elsewhere;

14 **WHEREAS**, Systemic racism led to housing policies that created segregation, which resulted
15 in black and brown residents of Baltimore City and other cities, living in poisoned environments
16 filled with water pollution and air pollution and lacking basic access to affordable, fresh foods
17 and efficient public transportation;

18 **WHEREAS**, Segregated, impoverished neighborhoods lack employment opportunities for
19 residents, which can lead residents to turn to crime to pay for basic living expenses, which in turn
20 makes such neighborhoods unsafe and stressful for residents to live in and thus leads to an
21 increase in violent deaths for residents and an increase in residents' susceptibility to a variety of
22 chronic diseases;

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, Black residents of Baltimore City are far likelier than non-hispanic white
2 residents to be hospitalized for several chronic diseases and drug or alcohol use, to have sexually
3 transmitted diseases, and to report that they have poor mental health;

4 **WHEREAS**, Life expectancies in less wealthy areas of Baltimore City, which are
5 predominantly populated by black and brown residents, can be up to 20 years less than life
6 expectancies in wealthier areas of the City;

7 **WHEREAS**, Nationally, black women are 3 to 4 times likelier to die from preventable
8 pregnancy-related complications than non-hispanic white women, and the death rate for black
9 infants is twice that of infants born to non-hispanic white women; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Black residents make up 30% of Maryland's population but make up half of the
11 deaths and infected cases from COVID-19 where race is known.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
13 Council recognizes systemic racism as a public health crisis.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
15 Health Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.