

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 06-0127R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Harris, D’Adamo, Kraft, Young, Holton, Mitchell, Reisinger,  
Clarke, Welch, Curran

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System, Baltimore City  
Board of School Commissioners, Department of Finance, Planning Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigational Hearing – Cameras In Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System and the  
4 Security Chief for the Baltimore City Public Schools to investigate and consider the creation  
5 and implementation of a security camera system for our public schools and report their  
6 findings to the City Council.

7 **Recitals**

8 Public school systems around the country have begun installing surveillance cameras outside  
9 the most used entrances and exits of their school buildings. According to reports, these camera  
10 systems have been useful in the prevention of vandalism, gang activity, fights, trespassing, and  
11 theft. Despite the obvious safety advantages to having a surveillance camera system in place,  
12 there are still many questions that should be brought to light before such a system is  
13 implemented.

14 There are many benefits to installing cameras around school buildings. First, the cameras  
15 help to provide school officials with information and evidence that would not be available if the  
16 cameras were not in place. In addition to this, the cameras also deter crime and may lead some  
17 students to confess infractions that may not have been caught by the security cameras. Cameras  
18 also give security personnel the opportunity to do more job-specific work that can save the  
19 school system time and money in the long run, as well as lower the cost of insurance premiums  
20 by reducing the chances of theft and vandalism.

21 In order to install these security measures, certain issues must be discussed and decided on in  
22 advance. First, the initial setup costs plus maintenance and personnel costs must be estimated.  
23 In addition, the school system must decide where cameras should be placed and how many  
24 should be placed at each school. The school system should also conduct research once the  
25 cameras are in place so that the new system can continue to be of a benefit to students and  
26 administrators. Hopefully, with an open discussion, proper security measures can be set up to  
27 protect our students and provide a safe learning environment for our children in the years to  
28 come.

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

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this  
2 Body requests the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System and the Security Chief for  
3 the Baltimore City Public Schools to investigate and consider the creation and implementation of  
4 a security camera system for our public schools and report their findings to the City Council.

5           **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
6 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Chief of Security for the Baltimore City  
7 Public School System, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.