

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0137R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Clarke, Branch, D'Adamo, Curran  
Introduced and read first time: June 15, 2009  
Assigned to: Education Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Youth Commission, Department of Recreation and Parks, Police Commissioner, Department of Finance, Office of Employment Development, Enoch Pratt Free Library

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **The Baltimore City Youth Development Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a citywide task force to work with and advise the Department of  
4 Recreation and Parks, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Mayor's Office of Employment  
5 Development, the Family League, and the Department of Finance on how best to expand and  
6 allocate resources being spent on the promotion of positive youth-centered activities for  
7 Baltimore's communities.

8 **Recitals**

9 **WHEREAS**, In fiscal year 1990, Baltimore spent \$165 million on the Police Department and  
10 \$37 million on Recreation and Parks; and

11 **WHEREAS**, In fiscal year 2010, we are poised to spend \$353 million on Police, while  
12 Recreation and Parks is down \$31 million; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Over those 20 years, the City's operating budget has increased by 85%; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The Police budget, however, has grown by 113%, while Recreation and Parks  
15 has shrunk by 15%; and

16 **WHEREAS**, For 20 years, we have been disproportionately allocating our resources in trying  
17 to deter and catch criminals while investing less and less in the programs most likely to keep our  
18 children from becoming criminals in the first place; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Recreation Centers, libraries, youth employment programs and other after-school  
20 activities are the best tools that City government has available to prevent not just crime, but the  
21 creation of the criminals themselves; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Youth development isn't another priority in competition with public safety; *it is*  
23 public safety.

24 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That  
25 there is established the Baltimore City Youth Development Task Force, a citywide task force to

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

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1 work with and advise the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the  
2 Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Family League, and the Department of  
3 Finance on how best to expand and allocate resources being spent on the promotion of positive  
4 youth-centered activities for Baltimore’s communities.

5 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force is comprised of:

- 6 1. The Director of Recreation and Parks or a designee;
- 7 2. The Executive Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library or a designee;
- 8 3. The Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development or a  
9 designee;
- 10 4. The Executive Director of the Family League or a designee;
- 11 5. The Director of Finance or a designee;
- 12 6. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the City Council’s Education Committee;
- 13 7. The Chair of the City Council’s Budget and Appropriation Committee;
- 14 8. The Chair of the City’s Youth Commission;
- 15 9. The President of the Greater Baltimore Committee or a designee
- 16 10. The CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System or a designee; and
- 17 11. 13 neighborhood and business representatives, 6 appointed by the President of the  
18 City Council, at least one of whom shall be under 18 years of age, and 7 appointed by  
19 the Mayor, at least one of whom shall be under 18 years of age. The Mayor will name  
20 2 co-chairs from among those 13 appointed members.

21 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force will be appointed and  
22 convened within 30 days of the adoption of this Resolution.

23 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force is authorized to appoint  
24 committees comprised of members and/or additional neighborhood and business representatives  
25 to carry out specific tasks, such as research on national or international models and best practices  
26 of youth development and outreach by organizing public hearings throughout the City to solicit  
27 ideas and report draft recommendations.

28 **SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force is authorized to estimate  
29 the capital and/or operational costs of any additional programming recommended by the Task  
30 Force.

31 **SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force is directed to recommend  
32 a 10-year plan for increasing the collective municipal expenditure on youth development to be  
33 no less than 20% of the funding spent on the rest of the City’s public safety budget.

34 **SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force will conduct at least 3  
35 public hearings throughout the City before finalizing its final recommendations to the Mayor and  
36 City Council.

37 **SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Task Force will issue its final report  
38 to the Mayor and City Council within 1 year of the adoption of this resolution.

39 **SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the  
40 Directors of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Mayor’s  
41 Office of Employment Development, the Family League, and the Department of Finance, to the

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1 Greater Baltimore Committee, the Baltimore City Public School System, and to all neighborhood  
2 leaders listed with the Department of Planning.

3 **SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
4 day after the date it is enacted.