

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 12-0061R**  
**(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Stokes, Kraft, Cole, Branch, Henry, Scott,  
Welch, Reisinger, Clarke, Curran, Mosby

Introduced and read first time: July 16, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Fire Department, Department of  
Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing - Fire Department -Company Closures and the Comprehensive Fire**  
3 **Protection Plan**

4 FOR the purpose of calling on the Fire Chief, the Director of Finance, and the City Solicitor to  
5 report to the City Council on the effect of the proposed disbandment of three fire companies  
6 and the effect of that policy on the delivery of fire suppression and rescue services to City  
7 residents; the status of the positions identified for demotion in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget in  
8 conjunction with the disbandment of fire companies; the levels of compliance with national  
9 standards for training, safety, and response to fire emergencies; and to furnish the City  
10 Council with copies of the current Comprehensive Fire Protection Plan and a detailed plan  
11 for future development of the required Comprehensive Fire Protection Plan.

12 **Recitals**

13 During the Fiscal Year 2013 budget process, it came to light that the Fire Department  
14 intended to disband three fire companies, relocate three companies, and demote certain members  
15 of the Fire Department for an undetermined period of time.

16 Following the June 29, 2012 derecho and over a week of excessive heat, the Administration  
17 opted to postpone the fire company disbandments and relocations, choosing to disband two  
18 companies on Monday, July 9, 2012 and postponing the disbandment of a third company until  
19 October 2012.

20 In 1989, the City Council passed a law (codified in Article 9. Fire Department, Subtitle 2  
21 Comprehensive Fire Project Plan) that states “Commencing January 1, 1989, and every 5 years  
22 thereafter, it shall be the duty of the Board of Fire Commissioners to present to the Mayor and  
23 City Council a written, Comprehensive Baltimore City Fire Protection Plan in which the City is  
24 regarded as 1 territorial unit”. The law goes on to state the plan will include:

25 (1) specific recommendations for equipment and personnel and their locations for the fire  
26 suppression companies, truck companies, and the emergency medical care companies  
27 for the next 5 fiscal years;

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

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- 1 (2) proposed future consolidations, relocations, or reductions of fire suppression and  
2 emergency medical care units; and
- 3 (3) the criteria used by the Board in determining that a fire suppression unit, a truck  
4 company, or an emergency medical care unit should be closed or consolidated.

5 The residents of Baltimore rely on public safety personnel to protect them and ensure their  
6 safety during emergencies. The public safety personnel that train and join the Baltimore City Fire  
7 Department unselfishly provide an invaluable service to the citizens of Baltimore.

8 It is prudent to address the concerns of both the residents of Baltimore City and Fire unions  
9 and identify changes to law and policy that are needed to ensure the safety of residents and  
10 firefighters alike.

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Fire  
12 Chief, Director of Finance, and City Solicitor are requested to report to the City Council on the  
13 effect of the proposed disbandment of three fire companies and the effect of that policy on the  
14 delivery of fire suppression and rescue services to City residents; the status of the positions  
15 identified for demotion in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget in conjunction with the disbandment of  
16 fire companies; the levels of compliance with national standards for training, safety, and response  
17 to fire emergencies; and to furnish the City Council with copies of the 2009 Comprehensive Fire  
18 Protection Plan and a detailed plan for future development of the required Comprehensive Fire  
19 Protection Plan.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Fire  
21 Chief, the Director of Finance, the City Solicitor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City  
22 Council.