

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0161R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, Henry, Clarke, Welch, Branch, Holton

Introduced and read first time: October 5, 2009

Assigned to: Public Safety and Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Fire Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Emergency Hearing - Fire Department Lay-Offs**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for an immediate emergency hearing on the purposed layoff of Fire
4 Department personnel to determine if such personnel actions are the most prudent approach
5 to budget shortfalls, to make certain that any necessary lay-offs are governed by fair,
6 objective, and consistent criteria, and to ensure that all proposed personnel actions are treated
7 with strict confidentiality and are not open to public scrutiny.

8 **Recitals**

9 In order to address an anticipated \$60.2 million budget shortfall in City government coffers,
10 it is expected there will be reductions in funding for libraries, senior centers, elections, and
11 health services. In addition, there will be across-the-board furloughs for non-public safety
12 personnel and 27 City employee lay-offs in 6 agencies. The Police and Fire Unions that object
13 to the lay-off or furlough of their members were given some leeway to present a an alternative
14 plan to reach departmental budget reduction requirements.

15 In a letter to the Mayor and the Board of Estimates, Fire Fighters Local 734, Fire Officers
16 Local 964 and Police Lodge 3 stated that the members of bargaining units they represented were
17 being asked to suffer larger cuts than the rest of City government: "They are being asked to
18 contribute more than others, as they daily contribute more in their labor and loyalty on the streets
19 of Baltimore to protect and defend the residents of Baltimore City."

20 The Public Safety Unions express concern that specific fiscal documentation of the need for
21 the purposed furloughs has not been forthcoming and that specific issues have not been
22 addressed. Questions remain about furloughs and salary adjustments that were instituted in past
23 fiscal crises, only to be rescinded when it was determined other budgetary action could
24 satisfactorily address shortfalls.

25 The members of the Public Safety Unions daily risk life and limb to protect the citizens of
26 our great city. In return, the government of the City that benefits from their valor must
27 satisfactorily address the issues that cause these brave employees distress.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
29 Body hereby calls for an immediate emergency hearing on the purposed layoff of Fire
30 Department personnel to determine if such personnel actions are the most prudent approach to

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

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1 budget shortfalls, to make certain that any necessary lay-offs are governed by fair, objective, and
2 consistent criteria, and to ensure that all proposed personnel actions are treated with strict
3 confidentiality and are not open to public scrutiny.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Members of Baltimore Fire Fighters Local 734,
5 Baltimore Fire Officers Local 964, and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 are invited to
6 participate in the emergency hearing.

7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
8 Presidents of Baltimore Fire Fighters Local 734, Baltimore Fire Officers Local 964, and
9 Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.