

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0289R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Kraft, Stokes, Middleton, Cole, Branch, Holton,
President Young, Councilmembers Conaway, Welch, Reisinger, Clarke, D'Adamo, Henry
Introduced and read first time: May 16, 2011
Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Department of Finance,
Department of Planning

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of Public Works and the Chief, Bureau of Solid
4 Waste to brief the Council on the City's Hazardous Waste Disposal Program; the adequacy
5 of the number, frequency, and timing of scheduled disposal days to address citizens' needs to
6 dispose of household hazardous waste materials in a timely fashion; the possible revisions to
7 the Hazardous Waste Drop-Off schedule to accommodate persons for whom the
8 opportunities to dispose of waste are not conducive to compliance; and other revisions that
9 would facilitate residents' participation in the program.

10 **Recitals**

11 The *Spring 2011 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off*, Saturday, April 30th at Baltimore
12 Polytechnic Institute, was announced by the Mayor and the Director of Public Works as an
13 opportunity for Baltimore City residents to dispose of hazardous household materials such as oil-
14 based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool
15 chemicals, and many other items.

16 In addition to those items listed, residents were told to bring automotive fluids, button
17 batteries, coal tar products, creosote products, floor care products, fungicides, furniture strippers,
18 kerosene, laser toner cartridges, oven cleaners, paint thinners, rust removers, solvents,
19 turpentine, vanishes and stains, weed killers, wood preservers, and straight florescent lights
20 bulbs for disposal.

21 The announcement reminded residents that all hazardous materials must always be stored in
22 a cool dry place out of the reach of all pets and children, that these materials absolutely cannot
23 go into the trash or down a drain, and that materials must be disposed of by a reputable, licensed
24 contractor. Residents were provided with a Recycling Processor List of private companies that
25 may be able to provide hazardous waste disposal services for a fee.

26 Media accounts billed the City's *Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off* day as a less than
27 stellar event. The press reported that long lines of cars – some 1,800 vehicles – inched their way
28 through the school's parking lot, and many drivers had to wait in line over an hour. The
29 Saturday "slog", it was said, was evidence both that Baltimore has plenty of household

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

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1 hazardous waste and that its system for collecting it needs improving. To wit – there was no
2 hazardous waste collection in 2010 (some of these materials had been sitting in city basements
3 for 2 years), and the resulting overwhelmingly response was greater than anticipated.

4 The City was compared to surrounding counties where residents of Howard County drop off
5 their hazardous wastes any Saturday from April to November at the Alpha Ridge Landfill.
6 Baltimore County residents can deposit their household hazardous wastes at the Eastern Sanitary
7 Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility, Mondays through Saturdays, from April to
8 November, and the county provides once-a-year drop-off days at two other facilities. Anne
9 Arundel County has a rotating schedule of drop-off days for landfills in Glen Burnie, Sudley, and
10 Millersville.

11 Clearly, providing an opportunity to dispose of household hazardous materials once every 2
12 years or even once a year is not sufficient to insure that Baltimore City residents properly
13 dispose of these frequently used products. In addition, the needs of all residents are not being
14 taken into account when disposal opportunities are restricted to Saturday – a day of religious
15 observance to several denominations with large city membership.

16 Department officials confirm press reports that Baltimore, facing a fiscal crisis, is looking
17 around for sponsors who would pay for another hazardous waste day and/or is considering
18 charging a fee to users who utilize drop off day services. Should this be the case, as department
19 officials consider these options, the Council requests that the need for additional sites and
20 additional or alternative days be taken into consideration as well.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
22 Director of Public Works and the Chief of the Bureau of Solid Waste are requested to brief the
23 Council on the City’s Hazardous Waste Disposal Program; the adequacy of the number,
24 frequency, and timing of scheduled disposal days to address citizens’ needs to dispose of
25 household hazardous waste materials in a timely fashion; possible revisions to the Hazardous
26 Waste Drop-Off schedule to accommodate persons for whom the opportunities to dispose of
27 waste are not conducive to compliance; and other revisions that would facilitate residents’
28 participation in the program.

29 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
30 Director of Public Works, the Chief, Bureau of Solid Waste, the Director of Finance, the
31 Community Associations listed in the Department of Planning Directory, and the Mayor’s
32 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.