

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0239R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Scott, Costello, Branch, Middleton, Henry, Stokes,
Kraft, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, President Young, Councilmembers Curran, Welch
Introduced and read first time: June 22, 2015

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department, Mayor's Office of Human
Services, Police Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Baltimore City's Efforts to Make Homelessness a Rare and Brief**
3 **Experience**

4 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the City agencies engaged in the struggle
5 against homelessness to appear before the City Council to update it on the City's efforts to
6 make homelessness a rare and brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where
7 improvements can be made in best utilizing the City's partnerships and resources to meet this
8 goal.

9 **Recitals**

10 Homelessness and the complicated conditions that create and maintain it – poverty, a dearth
11 of housing available to low income households, and a lack of health and supportive services –
12 remain serious problems throughout our nation and here in Baltimore. The work to make
13 homelessness a rare and brief experience requires constant effort and adaptation to changing
14 conditions.

15 Baltimore's efforts to aid our homeless population, estimated at more than 2600 on any given
16 night, are multifaceted and spread among a number of City agencies and programs. The City
17 must also work in partnership with many other government agencies on the local, State, and
18 Federal levels, as well as with private service providers, in order to effectively address the many
19 issues that must be considered by any attempt to combat homelessness.

20 Since homelessness is a persistent problem that is too often ignored, it is important that the
21 Council make every effort to keep it at the forefront of decision makers' minds. With too few
22 resources allocated to this complicated issue, it is vitally important to ensure that all of those
23 resources are being employed in the most effective way possible.

24 Homelessness is a problem that requires constant engagement, cooperative efforts amongst
25 many stakeholders, and a focused approach to making use of scant resources where they can do
26 the most good. Periodic discussions about how well the City's approach meets these principles
27 and where improvements can be made are essential if Baltimore is ever to achieve its goal of
28 making homelessness a rare and brief experience.

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

Council Bill 15-0239R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council calls on representatives from the City agencies engaged in the struggle against
3 homelessness to appear before it to update the Council on the City's efforts to make
4 homelessness a rare and brief experience in Baltimore, and to discuss where improvements can
5 be made in best utilizing the City's partnerships and resources to meet this goal.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Director of the Mayor's Office of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Journey Home,
8 the Health Commissioner, the President and CEO of Health Care for the Homeless, Associated
9 Catholic Charities, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.