

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0028R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Pinkett, President Young, Councilmembers Cohen, Middleton, Stokes, Dorsey, Burnett, Sneed, Henry, Clarke, Reisinger, Scott, Bullock, Schleifer, Costello
Introduced and read first time: June 12, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Watershed Protection and Restoration Efforts**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Department of Public Works to appear
4 before the City Council to discuss the annual MS4 report and the City’s progress towards
5 improving the health of Baltimore’s waterways.

6 **Recitals**

7 Under the terms of its discharge permit with the Maryland Department of the Environment
8 the City must manage, implement, and enforce a stormwater management program in accordance
9 with the Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations to restrict discharges of pollutants
10 through Baltimore’s municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) into the 5 watersheds within
11 the City that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

12 Each of the City’s watersheds – Back River, Baltimore Harbor, Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls
13 and the Lower North Branch of the Patapsco River – are currently listed as impaired by
14 pollutants in one or more ways. Therefore, the City’s MS4 permit requires the City to take action
15 to reduce the impervious area in each watershed by the equivalent of 20% to improve the health
16 of our waterways and the Bay that they feed into.

17 Baltimore’s watershed protection and restoration efforts are primarily funded by the City’s
18 State-authorized stormwater restoration fee, with some additional funding provided through both
19 the water & wastewater utility and the General Fund. Together, the City planned to spend
20 roughly \$30 million on the mandated goal of reducing impervious area in the watershed by the
21 equivalent of 20%.

22 Progress towards this goal – as well as the City’s adherence to commitments for specific
23 stormwater infrastructure, education, and mitigation efforts – must be reported to the State in the
24 City’s annual MS4 report, due at the close of each fiscal year. As DPW finalizes the MS4 report
25 for 2017, it is important that the Council be presented with an opportunity to review how
26 effective those millions of dollars in expenditures have been in allowing the City to reach its
27 milestones and make real progress towards healthy and clean waterways in Baltimore.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
2 Council calls on representatives from the Department of Public Works to appear before it to
3 discuss the annual MS4 report and the City’s progress towards improving the health of
4 Baltimore’s waterways.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 Director of Public Works, the Chief of the Department of Public Works’ Office of Compliance
7 and Laboratories, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.