

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0296R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, Young, Kraft, Spector, Holton, Curran, D’Adamo, Clarke, Crider, Spector, Middleton, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Conaway, Reisinger, Mitchell

Introduced and read first time: May 7, 2007

Assigned to: Urban Affairs and Aging Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Commission on Aging and Retirement Education, Department of Public Works, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – The Waxter Center**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Executive Director of the Commission on Aging and  
4 Retirement Education and the Director of the Waxter Center to report to the City Council on  
5 the physical condition of the facility, the prognosis for a building upgrade, and plans for  
6 future delivery of services to Baltimore’s aged population at the Center.

7 **Recitals**

8 When the Waxter Center opened on May 12, 1974, it was hailed as the largest and most  
9 comprehensive senior center in the United States, with the stated concept and mission “as an  
10 alternative to institutionalizing older people, emphasis should be on prevention of illness, on  
11 socialization processes, and on maintaining independence”.

12 The Waxter Center, utilizing the services of many public and private agencies, offered  
13 program services in education, recreation, music, dance, and creative skill classes; health  
14 services including free health monitoring, podiatry, and dentistry; employment services in job  
15 placement and training; food services in Eating Together breakfasts and lunches; and adult day  
16 care specialty services for the aged impaired and disabled, to over 3,000 members.

17 Almost 4 decades later, on May 4, 2006, the occasion of the 102 year birthday celebration of  
18 the widow of the man that the Waxter Center was named after brought attention to the pressing  
19 need for an estimated \$5.8 million upgrade for a building that is “wearing out”, with leaking  
20 plumbing and erratic heating and air conditioning.

21 In 2006, consultants suggested building an entrance on Eager Street and adding more natural  
22 light, in addition to upgrading the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire-protection systems.  
23 A fitness center, a library, a café, and a garden at Park Avenue and Eager Street were also seen  
24 as desirable additions to the site.

25 The historic center is not only important to the approximately 175 people who use it each and  
26 every day or to the 3,200 people who are registered there; it is an important part of Baltimore  
27 City government’s continuum of services to its citizens in each of life’s stages.

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

**Council Bill 07-0296R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
2 Executive Director of the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education and the Director of  
3 the Waxter Center are requested to report to the City Council on the physical condition of the  
4 facility, the prognosis for a building upgrade, and plans for future delivery of services to  
5 Baltimore’s aged population at the Center.

6       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
7 Executive Director of CARE, the Director of the Waxter Center, and the Mayor’s Legislative  
8 Liaison to the City Council.