

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0299R
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: June 4, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Commissioner, Mayor’s Office of Criminal
Justice

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Warrant Apprehension Task Force –**
3 **Request for Maryland State Police Assistance**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Secretary of the Maryland State Police to deploy 15 State
5 Troopers to aid the Warrant Apprehension Task Force in furthering its mission of reducing
6 violent crime in the City by apprehending and removing dangerous criminals from City
7 neighborhoods and respectfully urging the Governor to support this request for emergency
8 assistance to protect residents, visitors, and workers in Baltimore City and the surrounding
9 jurisdictions.

10 **Recitals**

11 When the Warrant Apprehension Task Force was created in 2001 to target the comparatively
12 small number of criminals believed to be committing the majority of crimes in the City there
13 were 104 law enforcement officers assigned to the unit. Task Force members included law
14 enforcement personnel not only from the City, but also from Baltimore, Howard, and Anne
15 Arundel Counties, the Maryland State Police, the FBI and the U. S. Marshall’s Office.

16 While the emphasis of the Task Force was apprehending violent criminals in Baltimore City,
17 it was expected that, in addition to driving down the City’s high murder rate, the multi-
18 jurisdictional approach would reduce crime in the entire region by targeting city fugitives who
19 cross surrounding jurisdictional boundaries to continue their criminal activities and further the
20 financial gain of their various criminal enterprises.

21 Since its inception, the Warrant Apprehension Task Force has lost 25 staff positions. The 79
22 positions that remain are held by 43 Baltimore City Police Detectives, 22 Baltimore County
23 Police Detectives, 4 Maryland State Police Officers, 1 Howard County Police Officer, 6 Parole
24 and Probation Agents and 3 U. S. Marshalls.

25 Although their number has been significantly reduced, the Task Force had it’s most
26 successful year in 2006, serving 10,311 warrants. Their efforts rid the streets of 129 persons
27 wanted for murder, 103 for shootings, 2059 for felony warrants, and 8259 for warrants for
28 varying misdemeanor offenses.

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

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1 Despite the valiant and tireless efforts of the Task Force, 40,000 warrants remain unserved in
2 Baltimore City. As has long been recognized by law enforcement experts, it is most likely these
3 criminals who repeatedly re-offend – removing them from our neighborhoods would greatly
4 contribute to the reduction of violent crime in Baltimore City. The assignment of 15 Maryland
5 State Police would greatly enhance the Warrant Apprehension Task Force’s ability to achieve
6 that very desirable result.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
8 Body hereby requests the Secretary of the Maryland State Police to deploy 15 State Troopers to
9 aid the Warrant Apprehension Task Force in furthering its mission of reducing violent crime in
10 the City by apprehending and removing dangerous criminals from City neighborhoods and
11 respectfully urges the Governor to support this request for emergency assistance to protect
12 residents, visitors, and workers in Baltimore City and the surrounding jurisdictions.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
14 Mayor, the Secretary of Maryland State Police, the Baltimore City Police Commissioner, and the
15 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.