

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0118R
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter, Middleton, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: July 11, 2022

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Police Department, Health Department, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigational Hearing - Prostitution - Diversion and Treatment**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the
4 Baltimore City Police Department, and the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success to
5 discuss current and proposed strategies to deter and treat prostitution in Baltimore City,
6 including a review of diversion programs and services in use in other jurisdictions that may
7 assist Baltimore City communities struggling with prostitution.

8 **Recitals**

9 Prostitution is a complex and systemic issue that affects communities worldwide. Studies
10 consistently rank prostitution among the most dangerous professions globally, with certain
11 estimates indicating women who sell sex are 18 times more likely to be murdered than women
12 who do not. Women engaged in prostitution also tend to be undereducated ethnic minorities who
13 experience disproportionate rates of indigence and substance abuse issues.

14 Further, prostitution is inextricably linked to human trafficking, with one landmark study
15 estimating up to 84% of women in prostitution may be under third-party control, pimped, or
16 trafficked. The National Human Trafficking Hotline lists Maryland as a "high indicator" state for
17 human trafficking, with 136 cases reported in 2020 alone. Recent data from the University of
18 Maryland also noted that 671 cases of child sex trafficking have been reported Statewide since
19 2013, with Baltimore City ranking highest among all jurisdictions for reported cases.

20 To prevent the disquieting outcomes associated with prostitution, the City Council would like
21 to discuss strategies to deter and treat prostitution in Baltimore City, including diversion
22 programs and services in use in other jurisdictions that could be modified and applied to local
23 communities.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
25 Baltimore City Council invites the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the
26 Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Director of the Mayor's Office
27 of Children and Family Success to discuss strategies to deter and treat prostitution in Baltimore
28 City, including a review of diversion programs and services in use in other jurisdictions that may
29 assist Baltimore City communities struggling with this issue.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
2 of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police
3 Department, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, and the Mayor’s
4 Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.