

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0134R
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Costello, Bullock, Torrence, McCray, Schleifer, Burnett, Porter, Cohen, Ramos, Middleton, Stokes, Conway, Glover

Introduced and read first time: September 12, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Public Works, Health Department, City Administrator, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Mayor's Office of Cable and Communication, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – 2022 Labor Day Weekend E. Coli Positive Tests and**
3 **Baltimore City Government's Response**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Public
5 Works, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Baltimore City Health
6 Commissioner, the Mayor's Senior Director of Communications, and representatives from
7 the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement to appear before the City
8 Council to discuss the E. coli discovered in the City's water system on or before Labor Day
9 weekend 2022 and to detail a complete time line of events that have transpired up to the date
10 of this informational hearing regarding testing results, notifications to the City
11 Administration, and notifications to City residents.

12 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Escherichia coli (E. coli) are
13 bacteria found in the environment, foods, and intestines of people and animals. E. coli are a large
14 and diverse group of bacteria. Although most strains of E. coli are harmless, others can cause
15 illness to people and animals. Some types of E. coli can cause diarrhea, while others can cause
16 urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia, and other illnesses.

17 On or around September 03, 2022, during a routine test, the Department of Public Works
18 discovered positive results for E. coli in the water distribution system at Baltimore City Fire
19 Department Engine #8, located at 1503 West Lafayette Avenue.

20 A boil water advisory (BWA) was issued to affected residents subsequent to the positive test
21 results.

22 Public-facing communications via press release and social media were overly vague and were
23 released at inconsistent intervals over the following 2 days. These communications included a
24 low-resolution map that residents were not able to use accurately to determine if they were
25 located in the BWA area.

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

Council Bill 22-1034R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
2 Council invites the City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the
3 Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the
4 Mayor’s Senior Director of Communications, and representatives from the Mayor’s Office of
5 Neighborhood Safety and Engagement to appear before the City Council to discuss the E. coli
6 discovered in the City’s water system on or before Labor Day weekend 2022 and to detail a
7 complete time line of events that have transpired up to the date of this informational hearing
8 regarding testing results, notifications to the City Administration, and notifications to City
9 residents.

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the City
11 Administrator, the Director of the Department of Public works, the Director of the Office of
12 Emergency Management, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Mayor’s Senior Director
13 of Communications, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and
14 Engagement, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.