

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0139R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Middleton, Torrence, Dorsey, Glover, Ramos, Porter, Cohen, Conway, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: October 3, 2022

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing - Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the State's
4 Attorney, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the
5 Baltimore City Public School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, the Federal
6 Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the Maryland State Police, the
7 Maryland United States Attorney's Office, the Maryland Department of Social Services, the
8 Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, The Hope Center (formerly known as Baltimore
9 Child Abuse Center), BlueDOT, and other collaborators from the Baltimore Human
10 Trafficking Collaborative who provide identified victims of human trafficking with
11 emergency interventions and supportive services, to brief the City Council on the scope of the
12 human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to investigate and prosecute
13 perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be implemented to bring these
14 individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist survivors of human trafficking.

15 **Recitals**

16 According to the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF), Maryland is a hotspot
17 for human trafficking. In a survey conducted by MHTTF, victim service providers in Maryland
18 identified 396 victims of sex and labor trafficking served in 2014. Of the victims whose ages
19 were reported, 56% were children. According to a 2015 Capital News Service investigation,
20 between January 2013 and May 2015 in Baltimore City, just 10 suspects were charged with
21 human trafficking and prosecutors dropped all charges in at least 8 of those cases.

22 Maryland's central location makes it easy for perpetrators of human traffickers to use its
23 highways, bus terminals, truck stops, and airports to transport victims to cities along the east
24 coast.

25 It is imperative that we protect the most vulnerable members of our society by bringing
26 perpetrators of human trafficking to justice and providing resources to those who have survived
27 human trafficking. Effective collaboration between law enforcement and advocacy groups and
28 local, state, and federal officials will be key in protecting victims and punishing perpetrators.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
2 Council invites from the Baltimore City Office of the State’s Attorney, the Baltimore Police
3 Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Public School System
4 Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland
5 Security Investigations, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland United States Attorney’s Office,
6 the Maryland Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, The
7 Hope Center (formerly known as Baltimore Child Abuse Center), BlueDOT, and other
8 collaborators from the Baltimore Human Trafficking Collaborative who provide identified
9 victims of human trafficking with emergency interventions and supportive services, to brief the
10 City Council on the scope of the human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to
11 investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be
12 implemented to bring these individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist
13 survivors of human trafficking.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City
15 State’s Attorney, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the
16 Baltimore City public School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff, the members of the
17 Baltimore Human Trafficking Collaborative including all nonprofit and federal law enforcement
18 partners, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.