

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0180R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen
Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2023
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, City Administrator, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of General Services, Office of Infrastructure Development, Fire Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Summer 2023 Baltimore City Pool Closures**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Recreation and Parks,
4 Department of General Services, the Mayor’s Office of Infrastructure Development, the
5 Office of the City Administrator, and any other relevant parties to: (1) report why Cherry Hill
6 Splash Park, Lake Clifton Pool, and Patterson Park Pool have not yet opened for the 2023
7 season; (2) discuss the impact of these closures on City residents and the ability of the City to
8 secure funding for future infrastructure improvements; and (3) discuss solutions to prevent
9 future closures.

10 **Recitals**

11 Public pools are a beloved, taxpayer-funded public amenity. They are critical recreational
12 havens and outlets for Baltimoreans of all ages. Public pools offer youth free, safe, and
13 enjoyable recreation and are a critical part of Baltimore City’s youth violence prevention
14 network.

15 As of July 12, 2023, the Lake Clifton Pool and the Patterson Park Pool have not yet opened
16 for the summer and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has
17 announced that Cherry Hill Splash Park will be closed for the summer.

18 In State fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Maryland General Assembly allocated \$3.5 million in
19 capital funds to fix known, deferred maintenance needs in the Patterson Park pool and bathhouse;
20 however, to date, the necessary repair work has not been completed. The repair work was
21 initially scheduled to begin this summer, but BCRP agreed to delay the maintenance so the pool
22 could open for the summer. Despite this agreed-upon maintenance delay, the opening date of the
23 pool, originally scheduled for May 27, has been postponed multiple times due to technical
24 challenges related to the deferred maintenance.

25 The failure to open public pools is a major disappointment to City residents, reduces trust in
26 City government, and, if grants are not used in a timely manner, may impact the City’s future
27 ability to receive capital funding for similar projects. City government should ensure that pool
28 closures are rare, last resort occurrences, and take decisive steps to limit and prevent future
29 closures of these valued public amenities.

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 representatives from the Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of
3 General Services, the Mayor’s Office of Infrastructure Development, the Office of the City
4 Administrator, and any other relevant parties to: (1) report why Cherry Hill Splash Park, Lake
5 Clifton Pool, and Patterson Park Pool have not yet opened for the 2023 season; (2) discuss the
6 impact of these closures on City residents and the ability of the City to secure funding for future
7 infrastructure improvements; and (3) discuss solutions to prevent future closures.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
9 Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of General Services, the
10 Mayor’s Infrastructure Czar, the City Administrator, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the
11 City Council.