

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0318R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Holton, Young, Kraft, Crider,
Middleton, Clarke, Reisinger, Spector, Curran, Conaway, Mitchell, Welch

Introduced and read first time: August 13, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Finance, Police Department, Mayor's
Office of Criminal Justice, State's Attorney's Office

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Special Inter-Agency Police Training Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Baltimore City State's Attorney and the Baltimore City Police
4 Commissioner to cooperatively develop an inter-agency training program for police officers
5 to ensure the protection of citizen's rights, the promotion of police integrity, and the
6 implementation of arrest policies that support effective prosecution of criminals and the
7 removal of dangerous individuals that threaten the law abiding citizens of Baltimore City's
8 neighborhoods.

9 **Recitals**

10 The Public Safety Strategy of our Baltimore City Police Department is to reduce violent
11 crime and strengthen public trust through: 1) targeted enforcement; 2) community engagement;
12 and 3) building strong partnerships. Police officials express optimism about reaching these goals
13 because: overall violent crime has dropped 17% from the same time last year; 881 illegal guns,
14 including 408 automatic weapons have been seized; thru mid-April, more than \$1,297,451 in
15 currency and narcotics with a street value of \$11,799,000 has been seized, and; there have been
16 2,534 fewer arrests this year, a 41% drop in excessive force complaints, and a 29% drop in
17 discourtesy complaints against officers.

18 In a June 2007, meeting with City Council members, rank and file police officers expressed
19 their 100% commitment to the City of Baltimore and the safety of its citizens and, while
20 selflessly accepting the fact that their vocation comes with a certain sacrifice they willingly
21 accept, the officers expressed a desire for changes among command staff to restore morale and
22 trust in leadership. They noted that better training for officers and mentorship from their
23 superiors would be a considered step toward achieving that outcome.

24 Historically, Police Command and the Office of the State's Attorney had agreed there is a
25 need for the ongoing training of police officers and several years ago officials from the 2
26 agencies co-taught in-service training officers and detectives recognizing that training,
27 particularly in the areas of report writing and 4th amendment law, was of mutual benefit to the
28 Police Department and the Baltimore City State's Attorney Office. Officials from the State's

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

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1 Attorney's office recommended that annual in-service training be expanded to include a program
2 focused on community relations and diversity because an improvement in the police relationship
3 with residents would enhance public confidence and cooperation with law enforcement.

4 As is the basic precept of the Office of Community Oriented Policing of the International
5 Association of Chiefs of Police's – ... "the core mission of police agencies should encompass the
6 protection of the community members' civil rights along with the enforcement of laws and the
7 maintenance of public safety. The mutual trust that is engendered by policing practices that are
8 respectful, fair, and unbiased is the critical element in establishing strong police-community
9 partnerships."

10 To simultaneously assure the civil rights protections of Baltimore's citizens, provide for the
11 general public safety, and provide the support that our men and women in blue need and deserve
12 is an undertaking that is complex and critical. The complexities inherent in this endeavor cannot
13 be deciphered by a lone officer or a lone agency, but must be the product of the cooperative
14 efforts of all stakeholders.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
16 Baltimore City State's Attorney and the Baltimore City Police Commissioner are requested to
17 cooperatively develop an inter-agency training program for police officers to ensure the
18 protection of citizens' rights, the promotion of police integrity, and the implementation of arrest
19 policies that support effective prosecution of criminals and the removal of dangerous individuals
20 that threaten the law-abiding citizens of Baltimore City's neighborhoods.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
22 Baltimore City Police Commissioner, the Baltimore City State's Attorney, the Director of
23 Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.