

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 13-0118R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mosby, Middleton, Branch, Clarke, Scott, Henry, Welch,
Curran

Introduced and read first time: August 12, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Divestment from the State of Florida**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the City of Baltimore review and minimize its business
4 dealings connected with the State of Florida, and municipalities in Florida, in protest of that
5 state's "Stand Your Ground" law and its application of that law.

6 **Whereas**, Florida Statue 776, the 2005 Justifiable Use of Force Act, more commonly known
7 as the "Stand Your Ground" Law, allows for the use of deadly force by civilians on a subjective
8 basis.

9 **Whereas**, Florida has a history of applying the "Stand Your Ground" Law subjectively and
10 inconsistently to various cases in the state.

11 **Whereas**, "Stand Your Ground" Laws have since been passed in over 20 states, and have
12 been used as a pretext, as with the case of the State of Florida v. George Zimmerman, in defense
13 of civilians that use deadly force to end the lives of innocent individuals.

14 **Whereas**, Civilians who own guns in states with "Stand Your Ground" laws are legally
15 allowed to act as vigilantes, taking law enforcement matters into their own hands, under the
16 umbrella of "self-defense".

17 **Whereas**, it is the fundamental responsibility of the City of Baltimore, taking into account
18 numerous pertinent factors, to decide where, how and by whom financial resources in its control
19 should be invested.

20 **Whereas**, It is the prerogative of the City of Baltimore, in respect to investment resources in
21 its control, not to participate in an ownership or capital-providing capacity with entities that
22 provide significant practical support for laws that deprive individuals of their life and liberty,
23 such as "Stand Your Ground", and studies have shown that 70% of people who use this defense
24 are found not guilty, 35% are not charged by prosecutors and 23% are given immunity by a
25 judge.

26 **Whereas**, the City of Baltimore may disengage from business practices with Florida directly,
27 or indirectly, through activities such as investments in Florida state or municipal bonds, as well
28 as decline to support the state of Florida and their travel economy by planning, hosting or
29 attending any event within the State.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the City of
2 Baltimore should conduct a thorough review of all investments and business practices engaged
3 by the City to determine what activities, if any, it conducts with the state of Florida, and
4 municipalities in Florida.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore should, to the extent reasonable,
6 with due consideration for, among other things, return on investment, on behalf of itself and its
7 investment beneficiaries, not participate in any business activities substantially connected with
8 the State of Florida and municipalities in Florida.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
10 Director of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.