

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 17-0024R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Middleton, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Costello,  
Clarke, Sneed, Dorsey, Scott, Burnett, Bullock, Pinkett, Cohen, Stokes, Schleifer, Reisinger  
Introduced and read first time: May 8, 2017

Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of  
Transportation, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Public  
Works, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the  
4 Director of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of  
5 Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, and the  
6 Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative  
7 total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and  
8 to recommend to the Administration a single City agency with the responsibility for mowing  
9 all City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces.

10 **Recitals**

11 According to the 2010 annual report of the Office of Sustainability, “At the end of 2010,  
12 roughly 7,000 vacant or abandoned properties were titled to the Mayor and City Council, and  
13 over half of these, 4000 were vacant lots.” Furthermore, the Department of Housing and  
14 Community Development possesses ownership of approximately an additional 4,000 lots. With  
15 the total number of vacant City-owned lots hovering around 8,000, a single bureau would  
16 increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of this City service.

17 In 2010, 4,000 lots owned by the Mayor and City Council, which are managed by the  
18 Department of Housing and Community Development, averaged \$760 per lot for 3 grass cutting  
19 seasons and \$1,015 per lot for annual trash and debris removal, totaling a little over \$7,000,000  
20 for total average maintenance cost for all the lots.

21 Consolidating all mowing operations in a single agency will eliminate confusion in  
22 determining which City agency is responsible for mowing which City-owned parcel. It would  
23 also create opportunities for the City to provide better service with greater efficiency in both cost  
24 and response time.

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

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1 This idea was presented to the last administration, but unfortunately progress does not appear  
2 to have been made toward achieving the efficiencies that consolidation of responsibility for all  
3 City-owned vacant lots and green spaces would achieve. The current status of City mowing  
4 operations needs to be examined once again with an eye toward creative solutions that could  
5 improve results for both our residents and City finances.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
7 Council requests the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the  
8 Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community  
9 Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and  
10 Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep  
11 and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and to recommend to the Administration a  
12 single City agency with the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots, lots, parcels, parks,  
13 and green spaces.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
15 Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the  
16 Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the  
17 Bureau of Solid Waste, the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, and the  
18 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.