

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0047R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Schleifer, Costello, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Pinkett, Dorsey, Bullock, Burnett, Cohen, Middleton, Sneed,, Clarke, Reisinger, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: September 18, 2017

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Police Department, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Calling For An Expansive Auxiliary Police Program in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for an expansive Auxiliary Police Program and the expanded use of
4 telephone and online crime reporting in Baltimore.

5 **Recitals**

6 Historically the Baltimore Police Department has had over 3,000 sworn members with over
7 1,000 of them being in patrol. However, today the number of officers assigned to patrol has
8 fallen to around 700. The shortage of patrol officers in Baltimore has been well documented
9 over the past year. Officers are being drafted for mandatory overtime everyday just to meet basic
10 patrol needs for the city.

11 However, despite this reality, the city has not altered the way the Department operates even
12 amidst a historic increase in violent crimes.

13 In cities across the country, police departments use auxiliary police as a force multiplier.
14 Traffic accidents, special event traffic, monitoring city watch cameras, and taking reports of
15 minor crimes like larceny from auto or vandalism are just a few ways auxiliary police are used.
16 These volunteer hours free up officers to focus on being proactive on violent crime.

17 This year Baltimore had 4,137 reports of larceny from automobiles through September 9th, as
18 well as 20,808 minor accidents and 3,919 reports of destruction of property through September
19 11th; and countless hours of police overtime for traffic at special events. With a functioning
20 Auxiliary Police component many of these incidents could have been covered by auxiliary units
21 freeing up sworn officers to focus on the crime in our communities.

22 In addition, cities across the country use Telephone Reporting Units and Online Crime
23 Reporting programs to take reports of minor crimes. In partnership with the City Council, the
24 Baltimore Police Department announced this program in 2013, but has not fully implemented its
25 use. Knowing the issues with resources and the state of crime in the city, it is time the City fully
26 utilized this option.

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
2 Council calls for an expansive Auxiliary Police Program and the expanded use of telephone and
3 online crime reporting in Baltimore.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
5 Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.