

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0044R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers McCray, Cohen, Ramos, Bullock, Middleton, Glover, Burnett,
Torrence, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: May 3, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Health Department, Mayor's Office of
Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – COVID-19 and Mental Health**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the
4 Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services,
5 and members from the Baltimore City healthcare community to appear before the Baltimore
6 City Council to discuss the financial, physical, and social impacts that COVID-19 has had on
7 the mental health of Baltimore City residents and what resources are available to help people
8 cope and recover from this trauma.

9 **Recitals**

10 When recognizing the various ways that feelings of isolation and poor mental health can lead
11 to depression as well as a series of adverse physical health, it is increasingly important to
12 acknowledge the ways in which living during a pandemic can negatively affect mental health and
13 trigger depression, higher risks of mortality, and increased levels of inflammation that lead to
14 chronic health conditions. We also must recognize the impact on mental health for survivors of
15 COVID-19 and family members of the over 900 members of our communities who have lost
16 their lives due to the Coronavirus.

17 Living under COVID-19, residents have not only spent increased amounts of time isolated
18 from those they love, but they have had to deal with the general stresses that come with living
19 during a pandemic. These stresses may be related to worry or fear about oneself or a loved one
20 contracting the virus, especially those with a pre-existing medical condition. There may be the
21 stress of not knowing when the pandemic will end and feeling like they have no control of how
22 the situation affects their life.

23 The contagion of COVID-19 has left our residents without the warmth of their loved ones,
24 and instead with indefinite periods of isolation and loneliness. As we continue to prioritize
25 stopping the spread of the Coronavirus, we must address the consequences that quarantine, toll
26 and stress of financial uncertainty, restrictions in social and family gatherings, disruption of
27 non-essential services delivery, and suspension of cultural and sporting activities can have on
28 mental health, and the various ways in which mental health impacts mental and physical
29 well-being.

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
2 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Mayor’s Office
3 of Children and Family Success, the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, and members from
4 the Baltimore City healthcare community to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss
5 the financial, physical, and social impacts that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of
6 Baltimore City residents and what resources are available to help people cope and recover from
7 this trauma.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
9 Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Children
10 and Family Success, the Acting Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, the
11 President of the Maryland Hospital Association, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
12 Baltimore City Council.