

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0074R  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: President Mosby, Councilmembers Middleton, Costello, McCray, Stokes, Ramos, Bullock, Schleifer, Conway, Glover, Cohen, Torrence, Porter, Burnett, Dorsey  
Introduced and adopted: October 4, 2021

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

1 **House America Pledge**

2 FOR the purpose of announcing that Baltimore City proudly joins *House America* and pledges to  
3 respond with urgency to homelessness and housing insecurity in our community by setting  
4 and achieving ambitious re-housing goals, creating pathways to homeownership, and  
5 addressing the impact of the racial wealth gap on housing inequity.

6 **Recitals**

7 **WHEREAS**, The City Council of Baltimore is committed to ensuring that all residents have a  
8 safe and affordable place to live;

9 **WHEREAS**, In Baltimore City – the birthplace of redlining and the country's first racial zoning  
10 law – homelessness, housing insecurity, and historic discrimination continues to impact all of our  
11 residents, and a lack of housing remains a barrier to the health, safety, well-being, employment,  
12 and education for these individuals and families;

13 **WHEREAS**, In 2020, the Point-in-Time count found that 2,193 people are experiencing  
14 homelessness in Baltimore on any given night, hundreds of families await rental assistance or  
15 housing vouchers, and tens of thousands of residents are burdened by lack of affordable housing  
16 options;

17 **WHEREAS**, More than 580,000 people on a given night were experiencing homelessness in  
18 America when the COVID-19 pandemic began and had to endure the COVID-19 pandemic  
19 without the safety and protection of a stable home, while the homelessness crisis has been further  
20 exacerbated during and due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

21 **WHEREAS**, The most effective approach to solving homelessness and housing insecurity  
22 requires identifying and assisting residents who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of losing  
23 their housing, or lack access to affordable housing and homeownership;

24 **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council is dedicated to ensuring there are few barriers to  
25 obtaining permanent housing quickly through housing counseling and navigation assistance,  
26 tailored levels of rental assistance, and wrap-around supportive services;

27 **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council will make policy decisions that address longstanding  
28 inequities and is committed to being accountable to our residents and our communities;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 21-0074R**

1       **WHEREAS**, The American Rescue Plan provides communities with significant new resources  
2 to address homelessness, including 70,000 emergency housing vouchers, \$5 billion in grants  
3 through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s HOME Investment  
4 Partnerships program, and \$350 billion in State and Local Recovery Funds through the  
5 Department of the Treasury;

6       **WHEREAS**, The City of Baltimore has received 278 emergency housing vouchers and \$641  
7 million in State and Local Recovery Funds, which provides the City with an opportunity to make  
8 strategic, long-term, and significant investments in our residents and the various communities  
9 that serve them;

10       **WHEREAS**, These vouchers and funds will help Baltimore better serve all of our residents,  
11 from those who are chronically homeless, to those who are living on the edge and working to  
12 escape poverty, and to help build generational wealth;

13       **WHEREAS**, *House America*, launched on September 20, 2021, is a partnership between the  
14 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), the United States  
15 Interagency Council on Homelessness (“USICH”), states, and communities to respond with  
16 urgency to address the crisis of homelessness and create affordable housing;

17       **WHEREAS**, Through *House America*, HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge calls on state and local  
18 leaders to set and achieve ambitious goals for re-housing households currently experiencing  
19 homelessness and developing new supportive and affordable housing units; and

20       **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council is committed to working with HUD and USICH to  
21 use American Rescue Plan resources and other federal, state, and local resources to make  
22 progress towards creating more housing security in Baltimore by joining with our local, state and  
23 federal partners to end homelessness and create pathways for more City residents to secure  
24 quality rentals and buy their own homes.

25       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
26 Baltimore City Council announces that Baltimore City proudly joins *House America* and pledges  
27 to respond with urgency to homelessness and housing insecurity in our community by setting and  
28 achieving ambitious re-housing goals, creating pathways to homeownership, and addressing the  
29 impact of the racial wealth gap on housing inequity.

30       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
31 Acting Commissioner for the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the  
32 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.