

FOURTH DAY

SECOND COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2016-2020

JOURNAL

CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

February 5, 2018

Minister Carlos Muhammad, of Muhammad Mosque #6, led the Council in Prayer.

The President and members of the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The City Council of Baltimore met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Bernard C. "Jack" Young, President, and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke

SHOWCASE BALTIMORE

Rick Scott, of Pride of Baltimore II, delivered a presentation.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of January 22, 2018 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 22, 2018

The Honorable Bernard C. “Jack” Young, President
and Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Council Members:

I am pleased to inform your Honorable Body that I have signed into law this day this bill which is routine and requires no special treatment:

Bill 17-0163 - An Ordinance concerning - Children and Youth Fund – Interim Governance and Administration - For the purpose of establishing a temporary administrative structure for the Children and Youth Fund established by City Charter Article I, § 13; establishing methods and criteria for identifying specific programs and services eligible for funding by the Fund; establishing methods and criteria for allocating available funds among eligible programs and services; providing for the expiration of the temporary law on July 1, 2019; allowing for a 1 year extension under certain circumstances; setting a special effective date; and generally relating to the administration of the Children and Youth Fund established by City Charter Article I, § 13.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor

NOMINATION WITHDRAWN

January 19, 2018

Baltimore City Council
Executive Appointments Committee
Baltimore City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Members of the Executive Appointments Committee:

My administration is formally withdrawing the following nominee to be considered for City Council confirmation to the Sustainability Commission:

EA18-0123 Mia J. Blom

If you have any questions, please contact Dominic Lamartina at Dominic.lamartina@baltimorecity.gov or at 410.984.3587.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

DARRYL DE SOUSA, as Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, for a term expiring June 30, 2022, succeeding Kevin Davis.

CHARLOTTE JAMES, as a member of the Commission on Sustainability, for a term expiring December 8, 2020, succeeding Geraldine Okwesa as a representative of private industry.

AVIS RANSOM, as a member of the Commission on Sustainability, for a term expiring December 8, 2020, as a member whose expertise is environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MUNICIPAL AGENCIES

Administrative Order #1T - 2018

January 17, 2018

The Honorable President of the City Council
Chairman and Members of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Councilmember Costello
Director of Legislative Reference

RE: Reserved Permit Parking Zone on Hopkins Place

Pursuant to the authority provided by Article 31, § 2-6(b) of the Baltimore City Code, I am hereby notifying you of my intent to **permanently**:

Designate a “**Reserved Parking**” location on the Est side of the Unit Block of Hopkins Place, 176 Feet (176') South of Baltimore Street. The space shall be 85 feet (85") in length to accommodate three (3) Downtown Partnership of Baltimore vehicles and will be posted in the following manner.

**Permit Parking Area
No Parking
Except with Permit #s:
DPOB0101, DPOB0102 or DPOB0103**

This Reserved Parking order will take effect immediately. In June of 2017 a temporary order was issued for this area.

This Administrative Regulation may be made permanent by the giving of notice pursuant to Article 31, § 2-6(c).

Sincerely,

Michelle Pourciau
Director
Department of Transportation

INTRODUCTION AND READ FIRST TIME

The President laid before the City Council the following bills and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council for first reading:

Bill No. 18-0186 - By Councilmembers Clarke, Stokes, President Young (by request):

A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council renewing and continuing the Charles Village Community Benefits District and Management Authority; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the activities and authority of the Charles Village Community Benefits District and Management Authority.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Department of Public Works, Department of Housing and Community Development, Planning Commission, Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

Bill No. 18-0187 - By Councilmembers Reisinger, Henry, Costello, Burnett, Scott, Pinkett, Bullock, Cohen, Stokes, Sneed, Dorsey, Clarke, Middleton:

An Ordinance clarifying that, in a certain circumstance, the Mayor and City Council may approve a conditional use for live entertainment; and providing that live entertainment in the C-4 Zoning District requires conditional use approval by Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Department of Transportation, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 18-0188 - By Councilmembers Dorsey, Henry, Burnett, Bullock, Cohen, Stokes, Sneed, Reisinger, President Young, Councilmembers Costello, Schleifer, Middleton:

An Ordinance allowing, as a conditional use requiring approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals, “auxiliary dwelling units” in certain districts; defining certain terms; imposing certain use standards; and requiring compliance with certain additional bulk and yard regulations.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Community Development, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 18-0189 - By Councilmember Costello, President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Pinkett, Dorsey, Bullock, Stokes, Reisinger, Middleton, Sneed:

An Ordinance extending the hotel tax to certain transactions facilitated by hosting platforms; requiring the licensing of short-term residential rental units; defining certain terms; providing for the denial, suspension, or revocation of short-term residential rental licenses under certain circumstances; providing for judicial and appellate review of administrative decisions relating to the licensing of short-term residential rental units; imposing certain penalties; clarifying and conforming related provisions; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the regulation and taxation of short-term residential rentals.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Housing and Community Development, Visit Baltimore, Department of Finance, Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee.

Bill No. 18-0190 - By Councilmembers Clarke, Dorsey:

An Ordinance terminating peak hour parking restrictions on the 1500 through 1800 blocks of East 33rd Street.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Department of Transportation, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 18-0191 - By Councilmembers Clarke, Dorsey:

An Ordinance terminating peak hour parking restrictions on the 2500 through 3600 and 4100 through 5200 blocks of Harford Road.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Department of Transportation, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 18-0192 - By Councilmember Dorsey:

An Ordinance terminating peak hour parking restrictions on the 2800 block of Echodale Avenue, the 4100 through 4900 blocks of Hillen Road, and the 5000 through 5300 blocks of Perring Parkway.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Department of Transportation, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

The President laid before the City Council the following Council Resolutions for first reading:

Bill No. 18-0065R - By Councilmember Cohen, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Costello, Scott, Burnett, Pinkett, Bullock, Stokes, Sneed, Dorsey, Clarke, Reisinger, Middleton, Schleifer:

Introduced: February 5, 2018
(Read and adopted)

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action – Automatic Voter Registration

FOR the purpose of declaring the City Council's support for HB 152, the Safe and Accessible Registration Act, and calling the Baltimore delegation and all State Legislators to action during the Maryland General Assembly in voting for HB 152 to ensure all residents have safe, secure, and easily accessible voter registration.

Recitals

The fundamental right of American citizens to vote faces challenges across the country. Legislators in other states have introduced legislation to restrict the vote. Maryland has the

opportunity to expand safe and secure access to the polls that ensures as many people legally allowed to vote can do so by passing the Safe and Accessible Registration Act (SARA).

SARA will:

- Seamlessly register Marylanders, or update their registrations during voter registration processes;
- Ensure more Marylanders become registered through an opt-out rather than opt-in mechanism;
- Ensure cleaner more accurate voting rolls when residents move within Maryland; and
- Provide a safe and secure voter registration system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council supports HB 152, the Safe and Accessible Registration Act, and calls the Baltimore delegation and all State Legislators to action during the Maryland General Assembly in voting for HB 152 to ensure all residents have safe, secure, and easily accessible voter registration.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Cohen made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Rules "Suspended".

Then Councilmember Cohen made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution “Adopted”.

Bill No. 18-0066R - By Councilmembers Clarke, Burnett, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Costello, Scott, Pinkett, Bullock, Cohen, Sneed, Dorsey, Stokes, Reisinger, Middleton, Schleifer

Introduced: February 5, 2018
(Read and adopted)

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action – Support a \$15 Minimum Wage for Maryland

FOR the purpose of calling on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to sign, SB543/HB664 or similar legislation establishing a statewide \$15 minimum wage, to ensure that all working Marylanders can pay for their basic needs.

Recitals

In Maryland, recent years have seen efforts to make up for the decades-long decline in the real purchasing power of our minimum wage. However, despite these efforts, hundreds of thousands of full-time Maryland workers still do not earn enough to cover basic needs such as housing, food, and transportation. This is an inequitable and unsustainable situation. In America, a full time worker simply should not need government assistance to be able to put food on the table and a roof over their family’s heads.

Raising the State minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2023, and then indexing it to ensure that it does not once again decline in purchasing power, would go a long way toward remedying this situation. According to an analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, this increase would benefit 573,000 Maryland workers. 90% of all affected workers would be adults 20 years old or older, and nearly a third are parents collectively raising 273,000 Maryland children.

The consensus drawn from decades of serious research on the issue is that statewide minimum wage increases are an effective way to address inequality and poverty without increasing unemployment or harming the broader economy. As states and local jurisdictions raise their minimum wages today, this reality is being demonstrated once again by growing economies and shrinking unemployment in areas where the minimum wage has already been increased.

Maryland lawmakers should be applauded for their recent efforts to make up for years of neglecting a minimum wage that had shrunk in purchasing power over time; but their efforts haven't yet gone far enough to ensure that workers can support themselves and their families. A further increase in the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour is needed to meaningfully shrink the ranks of the working poor and let all Marylanders share in our state's increasing prosperity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to sign, SB543/HB664, or similar legislation establishing a statewide \$15 minimum wage, to ensure that all working Marylanders can pay for their basic needs.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Clarke made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Rules "Suspended".

Then Councilmember Clarke made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

Bill No. 18-0067R - By Councilmember Scott, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Costello, Burnett, Pinkett, Dorsey, Bullock, Cohen, Stokes, Sneed, Middleton, Schleifer:

Introduced: February 5, 2018
(Read and adopted)

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action – Create a Board of Police Commissioners and Transfer Full Control Over the Baltimore City Police Department to The City of Baltimore

FOR the purpose of calling on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to sign, legislation to remove the Baltimore City Police Department’s status as an instrumentality of the State of Maryland and place the Department completely under the control of the citizens of Baltimore acting through the Mayor, City Council, and a new Board of Police Commissioners.

Recitals

The Baltimore City Police Department occupies an unusual legal position as a creature of State, rather than City, law, officially an “agency and instrumentality of the State of Maryland”, that operates only on territory controlled by Baltimore City and that for most, but not quite all, purposes is treated like any other City Agency.

The handful of ways that this unusual arrangement causes the Police Department to differ from other City departments are unfortunately not all trivial. In fact, they seriously undermine the City’s ability to quickly, efficiently, and effectively respond to some of its most pressing problems.

Provisions in the State Public Local Laws exclusively affecting Baltimore City, and in the basic powers granted by the State to Baltimore in the City Charter, have been interpreted as making it impossible for the City to permanently set policies regarding the Police Department through its own legislation. This leaves the City with two unappealing options for dealing with many vital issues - either address them through informal executive action that can be changed, undermined, or simply forgotten with relative ease; or through State legislation that can only be enacted during the limited window when the Generally Assembly is in session and requires the consent and interest of legislators with no ties of any kind to our city.

There may, possibly, have been a time when leaving the Police Department uniquely outside of Baltimore’s citizens’ ability to govern themselves under laws of their own choosing may have made some sense. However, the long-term problems in the relationship between many of those same citizens and the legally foreign Police Department that contributed to the recent unrest in our city, and continue to undermine the ability of the Department to properly perform its essential

functions of protecting and serving all Baltimoreans, make it clear that this lack of direct accountability no longer serves any useful purpose. This attenuated relationship also unnecessarily complicates the City's ability to meet its obligations under the consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department designed to address some of these long term issues.

Moreover, the return to having a Board of Police Commissioners would vest full control of the Baltimore Police Department in Baltimore's citizens, acting not only through their duly elected Mayor and City Council but through direct citizen oversight as well. Cities across the country have long had direct civilian oversight of their police departments through Police Commission Boards. Los Angeles, Kansas City, San Francisco, and Detroit are just a few major cities where Boards of Police Commissioners exist, all in their own unique form. Baltimore would benefit greatly from analyzing each model, especially Detroit's where the Board of Police Commissioners is partially elected.

In light of Baltimore's recent and historical struggles with its police department, it is clear that the oversight structure is at best troublesome if not broken. Baltimore needs a change to its police oversight structure. Enacting legislation to create a Board of Police Commissioners and turn over full authority over the Baltimore Police Department to the City of Baltimore would be an important step in bridging the gap that separates too many of Baltimore's citizens from the Department charged with protecting them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to sign, legislation to remove the Baltimore City Police Department's status as an instrumentality of the State of Maryland and place the Department completely under the control of the citizens of Baltimore acting through the Mayor, City Council, and a new Board of Police Commissioners.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Police Commissioner, the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Scott made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Rules "Suspended".

Then Councilmember Scott made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, AND 1134 ADOPTED UNDER RULE 3-9.

The resolutions were read.

The roll was called on the adoption of the resolutions, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the resolutions adopted under Rule 3-9.

Ceremonial Resolutions will be found at the end of the Journal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BILL NO. 17-0168 REPORTED FAVORABLY AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING

Councilmember Bullock, for the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, reported Bill No. 17-0168 favorably.

An Ordinance redesignating the City's Public Safety Conservation Area Program as the NeighborWatch Area Program; setting the requirements for neighborhoods to participate in the NeighborWatch Area Program; creating a Bmore Safe Places Board to implement the

NeighborWatch Area Program; requiring the Department of Transportation to post signs in designated NeighborWatch Areas; and generally relating to the NeighborWatch Area Program.

Favorable report adopted.

The bill was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 17-0156 REPORTED FAVORABLY, WITH AMENDMENTS,
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Costello, for the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, reported Bill No. 17-0156 favorably, with amendments.

An Ordinance naming the southwestern “plateau” of Wyman Park Dell’s main park area, bounded roughly by the wooded steep slope to the east, the 29th Street spur road and park entrance to the south, the southernmost entrance stairs off of Art Museum Drive to the north, and Howard Street/Art Museum Drive to the west, to be the Harriet Tubman Grove at Wyman Park Dell.

Committee Amendments to City Council Bill No. 17-0168

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in the second line of sponsors, after “Middleton”, insert “, Dorsey”.

Amendment No. 2

On page 1, in line 8, after “Dell”, insert “; and providing for a special effective date”; and, on the same page, in lines 28 and 29, strike “the 30th day after”.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report, as amended, adopted.

The bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 17-0165 REPORTED FAVORABLY
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Costello, for the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, reported Bill No. 17-0165 favorably.

An Ordinance changing the name of Madison Park, located at 1400 East Eager Street, to Nathan C. Irby, Jr. Park.

Favorable report adopted.

The bill was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 18-0176 REPORTED FAVORABLY
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Costello, for the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, reported Bill No. 18-0176 favorably.

An Ordinance clarifying a requirement that, to gate or green an alley, the majority of structures abutting the alley must be “residential”; and generally relating to the standards for the gating and greening of alleys.

Favorable report adopted.

The bill was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 18-0178 REPORTED FAVORABLY, WITH AMENDMENTS,
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Costello, for the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, reported Bill No. 18-0178 favorably, with amendments.

An Ordinance excepting hookah lounges from the City’s indoor-smoking restrictions, subject to certain conditions; repealing two obsolete exceptions that have been preempted by more stringent State law and, as such, are invalid; and generally relating to the operation of hookah lounges.

Committee Amendments to City Council Bill No. 18-0178

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, after line 2, insert:

“(I) MEETS THE CRITERIA LISTED IN STATE LAW;”;

and, in line 3, line 6, and line 8, strike “(I)”, “(II)”, and “(III)”, respectively, and substitute “(II)”, “(III)”, and “(IV)”, respectively.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report, as amended, adopted, with Councilmembers Cohen, Clarke, Pinkett, Burnett, and Middleton voting Nay.

The bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 18-0061R REPORTED FAVORABLY
AND ADOPTED**

Councilmember Costello, for the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, reported Bill No. 18-0061R favorably.

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Investigative Hearing – Increased Infant Mortality Rate

FOR the purpose of calling on the Health Commissioner to appear before the City Council to discuss the troubling recent increase in Baltimore’s infant mortality rate and what steps can be taken to continue reducing infant mortality in Baltimore City.

Recitals

For many years now, Baltimore has had the sad distinction of having a infant mortality rate significantly higher than both the Maryland and national averages. In recent years, this rate has fallen significantly. However, 2017 unfortunately saw a reversal of this positive trend.

In 2009 Baltimore experienced a record high 27 infant sleep-related deaths. That same year, the Baltimore City Health Department and its partners launched a concerted effort to save more infant lives and eliminate sleep-related deaths known as “B’more for Healthy Babies”. This program stresses the A-B-C-D method to healthy sleep – Alone. Back. Crib. Don’t Smoke. – and has led to a dramatic decrease in the number of infant deaths.

In 2015 Baltimore recorded its lowest ever infant mortality rate of 8.4 per 1000 live births, a 38% decline from 2009. And 2016’s 7 sleep-related infant deaths were also a record low. Last year though had already seen 12 sleep-related infant deaths in Baltimore City by mid-December.

It is hoped that the increase in deaths last year was simply a tragic one-time event rather than the start of a new negative trend. But even 1 preventable infant death in Baltimore City is 1 too many, and it is important not to let recent successes allow us to become complacent. The causes of the increase in infant mortality last year need to be thoroughly examined so that lessons can be learned and Baltimore can continue to move toward eliminating sleep-related infant deaths and holding down overall infant mortality in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on the Health Commissioner to appear before it to discuss the troubling recent increase in Baltimore's infant mortality rate and what steps can be taken to continue reducing infant mortality in Baltimore City.

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

Favorable report adopted.

The roll was called on the adoption of the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

**BILL NO. 17-0035R REPORTED FAVORABLY
AND ADOPTED**

Councilmember Middleton, for the Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee, reported Bill No. 17-0035R favorably.

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Investigative Hearing – Employees' Retirement System Funding Ratio

FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Baltimore City Employees' Retirement System to appear before the City Council to discuss the system's current low funding ratio and its plans to ensure that the City will be able to meet all of its retirement obligations to its employees without placing an unreasonable burden on City taxpayers.

Recitals

The Baltimore City Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is responsible for investing the City's and City employee's retirement contributions to ensure that employees in the general administrative service of the City, and certain non-teacher employees of the Baltimore City Public School System, receive the retirement benefits that they have earned. To achieve this goal they manage an investment portfolio that was valued at more than \$1.6 billion in March of this year.

In FY2016, the City contributed more than \$77 million to the fund, and employees contributed another \$10 million. Despite these substantial contributions, and the large existing balance in the fund, ERS' funded ratio, based on an actuarial value of assets, was only 71.2%. This means that nearly 30% of expected future retirement payments are not currently funded.

Although ERS believes that the plan is sustainable due to the fact that current employees will retire at different times over the years, one industry standard defines a "healthy" funded ratio as no less than 80%, and many in the actuarial field believe that a 100% ratio is necessary.

ERS previously met both of these thresholds. In the early 2000s it routinely reported funding ratios over 100% or in the high 90s. And as recently as 2009, after the onset of the Great Recession, ERS' funded ratio was 82.6%.

Since then however, the funded ratio has remained troublingly low. Changes to the pension system under the previous administration seem to have halted the decline of the funded ratio, but it is not clear that a plan is in place to move it back to a fully funded status.

It is important that City employees be able to rely on the promises of retirement income that they have earned, and that City taxpayers be assured that they will not face unexpected costs to fund these promises in the future. If ERS has a realistic long-term plan to reach full funding of its obligations, employees and the public deserve to know what that plan is and what milestones they should look to to measure its success. If no such plan currently exists, then one must be developed and implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on representatives from the Baltimore City Employees' Retirement System to appear before it to discuss the system's current low funding ratio and its plans to ensure that the City will be able to meet all of its retirement obligations to its employees without placing an unreasonable burden on City taxpayers.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer of the Employees' Retirement System, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Favorable report adopted.

The roll was called on the adoption of the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Scott, Dorsey, Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Reisinger, Costello, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-2
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 18-0185**

Councilmember Costello made a motion, duly seconded, to suspend Rule 10-2 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 18-0185.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rule suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember Costello announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-2
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 18-0180**

Councilmember Scott made a motion, duly seconded, to suspend Rule 10-2 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 18-0180.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rule suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember Scott announced a hearing date for the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Middleton, duly seconded, the City Council adjourned to meet on Monday, February 26, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

- CR 1107 Clarke**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Kimberly Allender, December 15, 1972 – January 18, 2018.
- CR 1108 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Kenneth Lathan, April 3, 1959 – January 17, 2018.
- CR 1109 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Margaret Ann Saunders, May 23, 1954 – January 12, 2018.
- CR 1110 Middleton**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Western High School Class of 1968 on your 50th Class Reunion Celebration.
- CR 1111 Middleton**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Sharif Small on your commitment and dedicated efforts to educate, enhance and enlighten Real Estate investors within the City of Baltimore.
- CR 1112 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Brenda K. Rhodes, November 3, 1952 – January 21, 2018.
- CR 1113 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Thomas V. Overton on your 70th Birthday and your loyal and dedicated service to the City of Baltimore and Department of Recreation and Parks.
- CR 1114 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Mrs. Estella M. Patterson on your 99th Birthday and the blessing of reaching fourscore and nineteen, may your day be filled with laughter, joy and love and support of family and dear friends.
- CR 1115 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Mrs. Margaret E. Edwards on your 90th birthday and the blessing of reaching fourscore and ten, may your day be filled with laughter, joy and the love and support of family and dear friends.
- CR 1116 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Providence Baptist Church on your 90th Church Anniversary Celebration, as you mark this milestone, remain steadfast in the word of the lord and give thanks for all he's done.

- CR 1117 Sneed**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Captain William Tomes on retiring after 46 years of service to the Baltimore City residents, working with the Police Department at Clifton T. Perkins and 17 years at Pimlico Race Track.
- CR 1118 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Reverend Dr. Otis Wallace Cutler, Jr., July 7, 1966 – January 19, 2018.
- CR 1119 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Patrice Loren Ervin on your retirement after 25 years of dedicated service with JHPIEGO, good luck to your as you move toward the next chapter that life brings your way.
- CR 1120 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating The Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation of Metropolitan Baltimore on the Grand Opening of the Kappa Leadership Institute and Guide Right Program, may it prosper and serve the community well for years to come.
- CR 1121 Middleton**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Margaret Dorsey, January 5, 1942 – January 21, 2018.
- CR 1122 Dorsey**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Antoinette Brown on your outstanding performance, superior dedication, and quality service to the members of the Harford Senior Center.
- CR 1123 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating David Tanner on 47 years of dedicated service with Baltimore City.
- CR 1124 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Reverend Michael B. Guy, Sr., S.T.S. on your faithful and dedicated service to St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and 12 plus years of service to the community, may God continue to bless you in your ministry.
- CR 1125 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Lieutenant James Tolson, BCFD, November 27, 1942 – December 16, 2017.
- CR 1126 Clarke**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Wallace “Butch” McGinnis, May 10, 1947 – January 29, 2018.

- CR 1127 Middleton**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Carol J. Bass, July 28, 1940 – January 19, 2018.
- CR 1128 Middleton**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Smithsonian Channel, Comcast, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture on your Black History Month Kick-Off Celebration film, The Lost Tapes: Malcom X.
- CR 1129 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION to the Family of Mr. Reuben W. Armstrong, April 27, 1951 – January 27, 2018.
- CR 1130 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION on the death of Lola Deanna Fleet, June 25, 1939 – January 25, 2018.
- CR 1131 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Mr. Raymond Chester on your induction into the Black College Football Hall of Fame, your success as a role model and dedication and service to our youth is commendable and encouraging to us all.
- CR 1132 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION on the death of Kathy Cooper-Alston, March 10, 1962 – January 24, 2018.
- CR 1133 President Young, All Members**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Reverend Dr. Alfreda L. Wiggins on 50 years of faithful service in ministry and delivering the gospel message in a manner that has always been heavenly inspired.
- CR 1134 Costello**
A City Council RESOLUTION congratulating Pastor Johnny N. Golden, Sr. on your leadership at New Unity Baptist Church Ministries and the successful “Miracle Sunday...Dar2Believe”.