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Recitals

Baltimore City ended 2016 with 318 homicides. Through November 2017, Baltimore City has already experienced 319 homicides and 649 non-fatal shootings. By any measure, Baltimore City has a violent crime problem.

It has been reported by the Baltimore Police Commissioner that the Baltimore Police Department is short 500 officers. This shortage is cited as a significant factor in rising overtime costs to fund basic patrol functions of the Police Department.

Moreover, the Police Department has stated that recruitment efforts have been improving as there are more individuals in the academy process now than at any point since 2004. Despite those efforts, and improvements in the area of attrition, there still seems to be a need for improvement in the area of hiring and recruitment.

Baltimore City needs a strategy to address violent crime and respond to the need for community police, while recruiting, training, and hiring employees and controlling spending.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Council requests that the Baltimore City Police Commissioner appear before it to brief the Council regarding recruitment efforts, officer retention, and recouping training dollars, report on the number and percentage of individuals that enroll in the police academy, graduate from the police academy, and are employed by the Baltimore Police Department after graduation, and discuss the retention rate of those employed by the Baltimore Police Department, the deployment of officers, and how that deployment will enable the City to curtail the rise in violent crime.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.