



Legislation Text

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The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

City of Baltimore Council Bill R (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning **Informational Hearing - Missing Persons**

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office to help the City Council understand the scope of the problem of missing persons in Baltimore City and to explain how agencies work together to find missing persons.

Recitals

January was National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. In 2018, 612,846 individuals were reported missing to the National Crime Information Center. Of those persons, 451,854 were reported as being under 21 years old. In 2019, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") responded to 10,719 reports of possible child sex trafficking. There are over 400,000 children reported missing every year, and, unfortunately, Baltimore is one of the top 10 cities with the most reported missing children. While some children are abducted, the vast majority run away from home. It is estimated that children who run away from home are contacted by at least one human trafficker within 48 hours of leaving home. Of the more than 26,000 runaways reported to the NCMEC last year, 1 in 6 were likely victims of sex trafficking. People who are mentally ill can be especially vulnerable when they go missing or become homeless - some are unable to care for themselves and may fall ill or worse without proper care. The mentally ill that are without housing can easily become victims of violence and other sorts of crime. The Baltimore City Council is interested in how City agencies are keeping our citizens safe and finding our citizens if they go missing.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the City Council invites representatives from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department to help the City Council understand the scope of the problem of missing persons in Baltimore City and to explain how agencies work together to find missing persons.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Police Commissioner, the State's Attorney, the Sheriff, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.