



City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Legislation Text

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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Cole

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Informational Hearing - Lease Agreements for Baltimore City Properties

FOR the purpose of requesting representatives from the City agencies involved in leasing City-owned property to appear before the City Council to ensure that market rate calculations are used in lease agreements and to ensure that adequate audits of City-owned property are done on a regular and ongoing basis.

Recitals

The City of Baltimore owns more than 45,000 acres of property in surrounding counties in addition to thousands of acres within City limits. Some of that property is leased to private interests or to other jurisdictions for use.

Recent news reports indicate that a Baltimore County elected official leased approximately 20 acres of City-owned land at a far below-market rate of about \$11 per acre. According to those news reports, the Baltimore County elected official negotiated a deal to pay a market rate price in 2003 and signed an agreement to that effect. The agreement never took effect, so the land remained at below-market rates until 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That representatives from the Office of Real Estate, the Department of Housing, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and any other City agency involved in lease agreements in which the City of Baltimore is the landowner are requested to appear before the City Council to review the case of the Baltimore County property, to determine if other below-market lease agreements exist, and to determine why audits of city owned property never exposed this below-market lease agreement previously.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Housing Commissioner, the Comptroller, the President of the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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ccres/LeaseHearing/wc:tw