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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Council Oversight Hearing - CitiStat Changes
FOR the purpose of convening a City Council oversight hearing to assess the current status, proposed future direction, cost effectiveness, and appropriate mission of Baltimore City's CitiStat program.

Recitals

Baltimore⁄s CitiStat program was initiated 15 years ago by then▲Mayor Martin O⁄Malley who initially brought the New York City Police Department⁄s Comstat program to the Baltimore Police Department, and subsequently adapted that model as an accountability and tracking system for about a dozen other City agencies.

CitiStat is best known as accounting for progress in completion of quantifiable agency and interagency tasks. While often tedious and time▲consuming, such accountability ties directly into our citizens⁄ expectations when seeking help and lodging complaints through the City⁄s 311 system and when demanding cost effectiveness in the delivery of City services in general.

⁄According to research by Harvard University and the Center for American Progress,⁄ as cited in The Sun⁄s recent review of this program, ⁄CitiStat⁄s tenets ⁄ such as ⁄accurate and timely information shared by all⁄ and ⁄relentless follow▲up and assessment⁄ ⁄ are crucial to the program⁄s effectiveness.⁄ Equally important is the involvement and support of the Mayor and other top City leaders.

Recent Sun accounts and personal observations indicate a period at CitiStat in which the innate culture of urgency and the ⁄relentless⁄ elements of accountability are ⁄on hold⁄ by Administration consensus.

With a consultant⧫s report in hand since the summer, City leadership may actually be in transition to a less confrontational and more collaborative CitiStat successor process in mind.

Before Baltimore City⧫s fiscal year 2016 budget is developed, it is important for the Baltimore City Council to determine what future the Administration envisions for this presumably emerging CitiStat successor.

Things change, but, in this case, the Council has a responsibility to understand what purposes a CitiStat successor might serve, how it might operate, what it might cost, and what 311 task▲related functions might remain to retain accountability in addressing the City⧫s most frequent constituent requests. The Council also must be informed about the impact of this transition on our proven progress in conducting interagency domestic violence and gun▲stat oversight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That to accomplish our own oversight of presumed changes in motion, City Council requests a list of all agencies currently subject to CitiStat review and a copy of the CitiStat consultant⧫s report, presented to the Mayor last August.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a City Council oversight hearing be conducted to include the CitiStat Director, the Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for CitiStat, the City Budget Chief, and other key personnel the Mayor selects to brief the Council.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the CitiStat Director, the Mayor⧫s Deputy Chief of Staff, the Chief of the Department of Finance⧫s Bureau of Budget and Management Research, and the Mayor⧫s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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