



Legislation Text

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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Spector

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Vision to Jobs - Strategic Community/Jobs Collaboration

FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore Rising, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Community Law Center, One Baltimore, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Department of Planning to join the City Council and representatives from two of Baltimore's community associations - the Glen Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Howard Park Civic Association - to discuss how to coordinate efforts to use new and tried tools to advance community based job opportunities concurrently with improvements to housing stock, buildings, and open spaces in Baltimore's neighborhoods.

Recitals

Helping neighborhoods to move from distressed, to rebounding, all the way to stable is a complex and difficult process that often requires that problems in a number of different areas be engaged with and overcome. Baltimore has many programs that are effective at addressing the particular narrow problems that they focus on in neighborhoods, but too often the neighborhoods that they work in are not able to take full advantage of these efforts because other concerns beyond the scope of a single program remain unaddressed.

In order to truly move neighborhoods forward, a more collaborative and holistic approach is required. For instance, making significant improvements to a community's housing stock is of limited value in attracting new residents to fill previously vacant and nuisance homes unless there are concurrent additions of job centers, and other community resources, that will induce people to look into moving to the neighborhood, or remaining in-place, in the first place. And bringing new jobs to neighborhoods can be more transformational if existing employees and new local hires can buy into the community to enliven it outside of business hours as well.

In order to maximize the return on investment for our rebounding neighborhoods, and free up more resources for distressed neighborhoods, it is important that efforts focused on improving housing stock or eliminating vacant properties be paired with efforts to bring employers and jobs to the same communities. Entities running programs focused on these different aspects of community building, such as CPHA, the Community Law Center, One Baltimore, HCD, BDC, and the Planning Department should work together to support each other's programs with coordinated investments and efforts.

Getting these organizations together, along with representatives from community associations citywide, would provide community organizations with an opportunity to use new and tried tools to advance community-based job opportunities in support of efforts to improve their physical environments. New businesses, job training centers, and other community resources should be steered to these rebounding neighborhoods to help them transition into stable communities and free up the resources to repeat the process again in neighboring areas in need of more assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on representatives from Baltimore Rising, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Community Law Center, One Baltimore, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Department of Planning to join it and representatives from two of Baltimore's community associations - the Glen Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Howard Park Civic Association - to discuss how to coordinate efforts to use new and tried tools to advance community based job opportunities concurrently with improvements to housing stock, buildings, and open spaces in Baltimore's neighborhoods.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Baltimore Rising, the Director of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Executive Director of the Community Law Center, the Steering Committee for One Baltimore, the Housing Commissioner, the President and CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Director of Planning, neighborhood representatives from the Glen Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Howard Park Civic Association, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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