



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 17-0040R **Version:** 0 **Name:** Increased Transparency About Police-Seized Property

Type: City Council Resolution **Status:** Withdrawn

File created: 8/14/2017 **In control:** City Council

On agenda: **Final action:** 7/6/2020

Enactment date: **Enactment #:**

Title: Increased Transparency About Police-Seized Property
For the purpose of requesting that the Police Department provide the City Council with a full accounting of all seized guns, drugs, dirt bikes, and cash over the last 5 years, along with a thorough explanation of how this material was disposed of, how long the disposal process typically takes, and what the best ways to include community representatives in that process may be.

Sponsors: Robert Stokes, Sr., President Young, Bill Henry, Brandon M. Scott, Ryan Dorsey, Kristerfer Burnett, John Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Sharon Green Middleton, Eric T. Costello, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Shannon Sneed, Mary Pat Clarke, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Edward Reisinger

Indexes: Increases, Police, Property, Transparency

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 17-0040R~1st Reader, 2. Police 17-0040R, 3. Finance 17-0040R

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
7/6/2020	0	City Council	Withdrawn	
7/22/2019	0	City Council	Reassigned	
3/27/2018	0	Judiciary and Legislative Investigations		
3/12/2018	0	Judiciary and Legislative Investigations	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
1/10/2018	0	Judiciary and Legislative Investigations	Conducted Public Hearing	
12/7/2017	0	Judiciary and Legislative Investigations	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
9/25/2017	0	Judiciary and Legislative Investigations	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
8/17/2017	0	The City Council	Refer to Police Department	
8/17/2017	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Finance	
8/14/2017	0	City Council	Assigned	
8/14/2017	0	City Council	Introduced	

* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

**City of Baltimore
Council Bill R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning **Increased Transparency About Police-Seized Property**

For the purpose of requesting that the Police Department provide the City Council with a full accounting of all seized guns, drugs, dirt bikes, and cash over the last 5 years, along with a thorough explanation of how this material was disposed of, how long the disposal process typically takes, and what the best ways to include community representatives in that process may be.

Recitals

Recent events have highlighted the importance of restoring the trust of all communities in Baltimore's Police Department. Implementation of the consent decree between the Department and the U.S. Department of Justice is expected to bring forward many tangible reforms to improve relations between the public and the police. However, it is important to take whatever confidence building steps can be independently identified in the meantime as well.

One such idea that has been raised in the past would be requiring civilian monitoring of police disposition of seized property and contraband. While there's nothing to suggest that the Police Department routinely mishandles this property, skepticism amongst some segments of the public about police claims regarding the destruction of guns, drugs, dirt bikes and other contraband has sometimes been a source of friction.

Involving civilian witnesses in the Police Department's property disposition process would be a simple and effective way to eliminate this friction while improving police openness and transparency. These witnesses could put to rest any concerns about police destruction of contraband, and their presence would not require any significant change in police practices.

In the meantime, it is important that the public be given more insight into the current processes for disposing of police-seized contraband. The Council should receive a full accounting of all seized guns, drugs, dirt bikes, and cash over the last 5 years along with a thorough explanation of how this material was disposed of, how long the disposal process typically takes, and what the best ways to include community representatives in that process may be.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Council requests that the Police Department provide it with a full accounting of all seized guns, drugs, dirt bikes, and cash over the last 5 years, along with a thorough explanation of how this material was disposed of, how long the disposal process typically takes, and what the best ways to include community representatives in that process may be.

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.