



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: President Rawlings-Blake

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Informational Hearing - Project SCOPE and Project 5000

FOR the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of Housing to share with the City Council the current status of Project SCOPE and Project 5000 and to discuss the effect these programs have had on decreasing the number of vacant and abandoned properties that blight our Baltimore City neighborhoods.

Recitals

Project SCOPE (Selling City Owned Properties Efficiently), approved by City officials in early 2003, was proposed by BEEF (Baltimore Efficiency and Economy Foundation), a nonprofit foundation focused on reducing waste in City government. Encouraging government to use methods proven successful in the private sector, SCOPE officials, with the support of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors and the Goldseker Foundation, designed a cooperative endeavor in which it was agreed that real estate agents would be paid an 8% commission or a \$2,500 fee, whichever was higher, for each property sold. Most of the properties in Project SCOPE are in poorer neighborhoods and are vacant and in need of a extensive repair.

In January 2004, after working for 2 years to get title to thousands of vacant houses, Baltimore City housing officials announced the implementation of the next phase of the renewal plan, known as Project 5000, that would provide for the sale of 2,250 derelict homes immediately and the sale of an equal amount 6 months later. The sale to private owners or donation for redevelopment to community groups, individuals, or non-profits of 6000 properties exceeded by 1000 the original goal of Project 5000.

Project SCOPE and Project 5000 are both aimed at reducing the number of vacant properties, estimated to be approximately 15,000, in early 2000, that threaten the quality of life in neighborhoods across Baltimore City. The success of both of these projects is not only the acquisition of vacant and abandoned properties, but the return of those properties to productive use and to the property tax base that supports the many services the City provides to its citizens and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Commissioner of Housing is invited to share with the City Council the current status of Project SCOPE and Project 5000 and to

discuss the effect these programs have had on decreasing the number of vacant and abandoned properties that blight our Baltimore City neighborhoods.

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

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