



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 Young

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning **Community - Economic Development in Struggling Neighborhoods**

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Baltimore Development Corporation, Finance Department, Department of Housing and Community Development, Health Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and Planning Department report to the City Council on the community - economic development tools available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City, how those tools are currently being used to develop and reinvest in neighborhoods, and how City agencies can further collaborate with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

Recitals

Over the last five years, Baltimore City has seen significant new investments and development; however it appears only a handful of neighborhoods have attracted the interest of investors and developers. This economic interest reflects the social, economic, and health disparities between Baltimore City neighborhoods. Distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City are isolated, struggling, and unable to leverage their human capital into community and economic development opportunities that could and should build stronger, healthier, sustainable neighborhoods.

Residents in distressed neighborhoods concurrently struggle with high unemployment rates, high crime rates, health disparities, inadequate early child care and education, and economic insecurity. These neighborhoods face unaffordable, inconsistent, or limited access to basic goods and services. Residents in high-poverty neighborhoods are unable to leverage assets to provide a basis for community and economic growth and improvement.

The question facing the City of Baltimore is how to support the transformation of distressed neighborhoods into choice neighborhoods of opportunity? How can the City of Baltimore support the

development of distressed neighborhoods into neighborhoods with high▲quality, safe, and affordable housing; thriving commercial amenities that provide access to affordable goods and services; accessible parks and recreational spaces; and high▲quality schools.

The City of Baltimore currently offers numerous programs and services that provide critical support to residents of distressed neighborhoods. These programs range across various agencies and departments and provide assistance for fundamental services such as education, child care, workforce training, and health care.

The City Council calls on agencies to report on current efforts to help struggling and distressed neighborhoods and to identify ways to integrate existing programs and identify opportunities for new programs that will develop the existing, underutilized human capital, leverage existing assets, and build strong, sustainable neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council requests that the Baltimore Development Corporation, Finance Department, Department of Housing and Community Development, Health Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and Planning Department report to it on the community ▲ economic development tools available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City, how those tools are currently being used to develop and reinvest in neighborhoods, and how City agencies can further collaborate with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President & CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Director of Finance, the Housing Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Director of Planning, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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