



# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Legislation Text

File #: 20-0261R, Version: 0

\* **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: President Scott

### A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning

### **Recognizing the Service of Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke**

For the purpose of recognizing Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke for her decades of service to Baltimore City, on her retirement from the Baltimore City Council.

### Recitals

Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke began her political career in Baltimore City with the New Democratic Club (NDC2), which was a reform political organization of the 1970's. She was part of a new wave of politicians who sought to move power from the bosses to the people. She was also involved in the City's first efforts to create a biracial political coalition. Since her beginnings in politics, Councilmember Clarke has been known for her focus on constituent work and neighborhood issues.

Councilmember Clarke was first elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1975 - she was elected to represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and was only the 7<sup>th</sup> woman to ever be elected to the Baltimore City Council. She represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> District from 1975-1983 and was known as an independent voice that frequently challenged other councilmembers. While representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> District she introduced an extension to the rent-control policy and a bill to limit the size of classes in Baltimore City schools. She introduced and successfully passed a bill creating the Residential Parking Permit program.

In 1983, in her initial run for Council President, the Baltimore Sun wrote "she has practiced the politics of opposition - providing the voice of legitimate grievance, exploiting rather than denying the unmet need - for 8 years.... She provides the views of a younger generation in politics, with energy to match. Her great virtue, as in rental housing or school-class size, is to hold a problem to the light."

Councilmember Clarke joined the City Council a second time starting in 1987, this time as President. Councilmember Clarke was the first woman to be elected City Council President and served as President from 1987-1995. As Council President, she was committed to open government and governmental transparency. President Clarke opened Board of Estimates "mini-meetings" to the public and televised Council meetings on the City's cable network. Her support as Council President was crucial to the passage of a 1988 bill outlawing discrimination based on sexual preference. She also lent much-needed support to a redistricting bill sponsored by Councilmember Stokes that sought to increase the number of Black councilmembers. As a strong supporter of workers' rights, in 1994, under her stewardship, the Council passed the first living wage law. Always

responsive to constituent needs, in 1993 she spent a night in the Lexington Terrace housing project to experience the abysmal conditions of the place firsthand. She also fought against the partial-privatization of City schools in the 1990s.

Councilmember Clarke joined the City Council for a third time in 2004, when she was elected to represent the 14<sup>th</sup> District. Councilmember Clarke has been representing the 14<sup>th</sup> District since her 2004 victory. During this period on the Council, Councilmember Clarke has continued fighting for workers' rights; in 2017, she was the lead sponsor for the \$15 minimum wage bill. Also a supporter of the environment, Councilmember Clarke supported the many attempts to ban polystyrene until the ban was successfully passed in 2018. With her colleague Ed Reisinger, she sought to ban crude oil terminals from Baltimore and has been a tireless advocate of the Council's Clean Air Act that seeks to reduce air pollution and improve the health of all City residents.

Councilmember Clarke was dean of the 72<sup>nd</sup> term of the City Council and took her role as a mentor to the next generation of law makers very seriously. Councilmember Clarke is the 4<sup>th</sup> longest-serving councilmember in the history of the Council, with 32 years of service. The President and all members of the City Council will miss Councilmember Clarke and thank her for her service.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore,** That the City Council recognizes Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke for her decades of service to Baltimore City, on her retirement from the Baltimore City Council.

**And be it further resolved,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.