

Four unanimous city council resolutions urging an end to incineration and a move toward zero waste:

6/5/2017: Zero Waste: "Informational Hearing - Moving Baltimore to Zero Waste" [Resolution Text](#) | [Info](#)

- Points out that incinerators are worse for the climate than coal power plants
- Calls on city agencies and Zero Waste experts to report back to City Council and discuss development of a Zero Waste plan for Baltimore

6/19/2017: Climate: "Request for City Action - Supporting the Paris Accord" [Resolution Text](#) | [Info](#)

- "In 2015, a single Baltimore trash incinerator emitted 764,895 tons of carbon dioxide, the largest single source of carbon dioxide emissions in the city by far."
- "Baltimore City will strive to disincentivize energy generation from incineration technologies, a source of greenhouse gases, and mitigate health harms associated with pollution from combustion."
- **"Baltimore City will develop a solid waste management plan that will curtail the use of waste incineration, with the explicit aims of eliminating waste incineration and protecting the workers involved."**

10/16/2017: NOx Resolution: "Request for State Action – Set a Strong Nitrogen Oxides Limit for the Wheelabrator Baltimore Incinerator" [Resolution Text](#) | [Info](#)

- "In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted 1,123 tons of NOx, making it the sixth largest emitter of NOx in the State of Maryland that year. The Baltimore incinerator also emitted more NOx per unit of energy generated in 2015 than any other large power plant in Maryland."
- "The Council requests that the Maryland Department of the Environment use its legal authority to go beyond the RACT standard in order to **set a nitrogen oxides limit of 45 ppm** on a 24-hour basis, which is the limit that would likely be set for a new incinerator."
 - **NOTE:** this request for a 45 part per million (ppm) limit for Wheelabrator's NOx emissions has been ignored by the state. The Baltimore Clean Air Act would set this same standard at the city level. This is the standard the state required in two permits issued for new waste incinerators in recent years.
- Baltimore City Health Department [commented](#): "Baltimore City suffers from high rates of asthma. The state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports 12.4% of Baltimore City adults have asthma, four points higher than the statewide average. Moreover, 1 in 5 children under the age of 18 in Baltimore City suffer from asthma, double the national average. These high rates lead to large losses of productivity through missed school and work days. Reduced air pollution realized through a Zero Waste plan could help the city lower its asthma rates."

5/14/2018: DPW Waste Study: "Improving Development of a Baltimore City Recycling and Solid Waste Management Master Plan" [Resolution Text](#) | [Info](#)

- "Wheelabrator Baltimore is the city's single largest air polluter, releasing 57% of the industrial emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) in Baltimore City, equivalent to emissions from half of the cars or half of the trucks in the city, and is also the city's largest source of air pollution from benzo[a]pyrene, chromium VI, formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, lead, mercury, and sulfur dioxides."
- "All work done to develop this Master Plan must abide by these City directives [Resolutions referenced above] by **planning for an end to the use of incineration by 1/1/2022**, and must strictly abide by the internationally peer-reviewed Zero Waste Hierarchy as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance"
- "Council requests that amendments to the RFP specifically require that the Zero Waste Hierarchy (as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance) be strictly followed; that the Plan not consider any use of incineration beyond 12/31/2021 and plan for Wheelabrator Baltimore to be closed after that time; that the Plan not consider privatizing, mining or rapidly filling Quarantine Road Landfill, mixed waste processing, 'solid recovered fuel production', or gasification; and that the plan focus on implementing Zero Waste, with closure of the incinerator by 1/1/2022, replacement of the steam loop's needs with non-burn alternatives, and setting up the needed Zero Waste policies and infrastructure as rapidly as possible in order to maximize the life of Quarantine Road Landfill."

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1 Not only are the environmental benefits of Zero Waste efforts significant, they also produce
2 significant economic gains. One study found that doubling the national recycling rate would
3 create 1.5 million new well-paying, local, long-term jobs. By their nature, these jobs are
4 overwhelmingly located in or near the communities increasing recycling.

5 Over time, Baltimore has made great strides in reducing its waste footprint and increasing
6 recycling. But much more could be done, particularly in our handling of discarded food and
7 other organic waste. Baltimore needs to develop an effective, long-term, plan to move toward
8 Zero Waste to support the continued health, well-being, and prosperity of our residents.

9 Although all communities are different and require unique approaches, the successes of many
10 other cities in these efforts have created a robust and well-understood roadmap that Baltimore
11 can learn from in its own efforts. These successes should be studied throughout City government
12 so that their lessons can be applied to create our own Zero Waste plan.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
14 Council requests that representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Health
15 Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Office of Sustainability, the Department of
16 Housing and Community Development, and other City agencies involved with waste reduction
17 efforts in Baltimore appear before it, along with experts on Zero Waste efforts nationwide, to
18 discuss the development of a Zero Waste plan for Baltimore that will advance sustainability,
19 public health, and job creation.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
21 Director of Public Works, the Health Commissioner, the Acting Housing Commissioner, the
22 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Office of Sustainability's Sustainability Coordinator,
23 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0029R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cohen, Costello, Clarke, Schleifer, Henry, Middleton, Scott,
Bullock, Pinkett, Burnett, Stokes, Dorsey, Reisinger, Sneed, President Young
Introduced and adopted: June 19, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for City Action – Supporting the Paris Accord

FOR the purpose of recognizing the importance of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; opposing the ill-advised decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement; and committing to practices that disrupt short-sighted trends in consumption of natural resources and degradation of human health to create a liveable, economical, equitable, and just energy future for all Baltimoreans regardless of age, race, income, or zip code.

Recitals

WHEREAS, Baltimore recognizes the importance of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement (Paris Accord) under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, which amplified the resolve of a generation to limit global mean temperature increases to 1.5C for the preservation of future generations.

WHEREAS, Under the Paris Accord, the United States pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025. Maryland has always been bolder than the average with a greenhouse gas target of 40% below 2006 levels by 2030, and climbing.

WHEREAS, the recent decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord is alarming and requires great cities and states to step up and act to ensure that the long-term goals of the Paris accord can still be realized.

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore is committed to taking aggressive action to mitigate global climate change, as indicated by the agenda set in our *Climate Action Plan*, and efforts including the *Tree Baltimore Initiative*, *The Green Network Plan*, and an increasing focus on areas of clean energy, waste diversion, land use, zoning, and transportation. We have shown the desire to foster growth of a green and sustainable city as defined by affordability, and equity in access to a healthy food supply, clean water, and toxic-free housing. In doing so, the City is aligned with *Prosperous, Renewable Maryland* an ambitious program for a just and 100% renewable electricity sector. Baltimore joins with cities and counties around the world, including many in the United States, who have committed to a 100% renewable future.

WHEREAS, Baltimore’s Mayor has signed on to the Climate Action Agenda.

WHEREAS, Baltimore is not yet in full recovery from its history of maritime industry, it is charged with remediation of many decades of pollution to its neighborhoods and people and revival of the loss of the local economy after trade and manufacturing declined.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **WHEREAS**, Climate Change is the greatest environmental health threat of our time. It causes
2 temperature spikes and rising sea levels that result in preventable and premature death of our
3 citizenry who endure increasingly extended allergy seasons, surges in heat stress, heart disease,
4 asthma and other lung disease, as well as the spread of vector borne illnesses like Lyme disease
5 and the Zika virus.

6 **WHEREAS**, the effects of environmental health threats are not limited to physical degradation
7 but include psycho-social stressors which wear away the resilience of humans to recover from
8 pollution impacts of air and water contamination from fossil fuel energy generation.

9 **WHEREAS**, household energy is unaffordable for tens of thousands of Baltimoreans resulting
10 in impossible choices of paying for food, medicines, rent, or energy bills.

11 **WHEREAS**, the impacts of energy choice in favor of fossil fuels disproportionately stacks
12 burdens on people of color and those with limited English proficiency and low-income
13 communities whether they are in the cities, suburbs, or exurbs.

14 **WHEREAS**, climate change impacts are felt first and worst by vulnerable populations which
15 exacerbates inequity, we reject treating people and the planet as resources to be exploited.

16 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore is particularly sensitive to all of the above because of its reliance on
17 the business of dirty energy. In 2015, a single Baltimore trash incinerator emitted 764,895 tons
18 of carbon dioxide, the largest single source of carbon dioxide emissions in the city by far.

19 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore area air quality is preventably poor with levels of ground-level ozone -
20 or smog - that threatens human health from sources including truck traffic, commercial
21 congestion, the colocation of coal burning plants within fifteen miles of the city, and industrial
22 conditions in neighboring cities and states.

23 **WHEREAS**, a lack of healthful food options across a one mile span for every five hundred
24 community residents in Baltimore City, and/or one third of Baltimore area community members
25 constitutes a food desert.

26 **WHEREAS**, the existence of food deserts in Baltimore is a loss of freedom to choose
27 foodstuffs that are healthful, local, or low-emission which increases environmental health
28 injustice in Baltimore.

29 **WHEREAS**, urban agriculture increases resilience by enhancing the availability of healthful
30 food and offers the benefit of carbon storage in the soil.

31 **WHEREAS**, toxic chemicals from industry are pervasive in the built environment to the
32 detriment of human health and natural resources, toxics have permeated the articles of everyday
33 life including cleaning products, fragrance, feminine, beauty and personal care, and the retail
34 markets and shops selling related goods and services that are inequitably concentrated in urban
35 centers.

36 **WHEREAS**, freight trains carrying volatile Bakken crude oil threaten 165,000 people who live
37 in the “blast zone” in Baltimore City and facilitate the extraction and combustion of some of the
38 most climate-polluting oil on the planet.

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1 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore is under threat of increased flooding and extreme tides due to sea level
2 rise, which contributes to toxic mold conditions that affect indoor air quality.

3 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City sewage and stormwater pipes are aged and in disrepair, flooding
4 sewers to overflowing until waste, toxins, and pollutants make their way into residential homes
5 with increased frequency as sea level rises and extreme weather events occur.

6 **WHEREAS**, the 14-mile Red Line Train connecting Western Baltimore County to Bayview
7 was cancelled by executive authority without heed of existing inequities, transportation needs or
8 the opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and realize the health benefits of mass transit.

9 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore has significant potential for collective action because it has long
10 standing neighborhood and community networks.

11 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore’s Port has the potential to be an economic engine and coastal hub for
12 renewable energy industries.

13 **WHEREAS**, local job opportunities in the clean energy sector are tied to increases in in-state
14 targets for clean energy generation, as an anchor for Baltimore business development with solar
15 and wind being the fastest growing economies in the country.

16 **WHEREAS**, large cities like Baltimore have the political clout to lead ambitious initiatives in
17 the absence of state and federal action.

18 **WHEREAS**, in order to assume a leadership role in national and international efforts to
19 mitigate and roll back damage to our environment in the wake of the decision to leave the Paris
20 Accord, Baltimore supports the implementation of the following policies and actions:

- 21 • Baltimore City will strive for a 100% clean, renewable electricity supply by the year
22 2050.
- 23 • Baltimore City will strive to develop local and Citywide procurement policies that
24 prioritize non-toxic cleaning products and byproducts in municipal buildings and
25 related contracts to stem the tide of waterway pollution.
- 26 • Baltimore City will limit the development and expansion of facilities that handle
27 crude oil while working with port authorities and railway companies to increase
28 transparency and accountability for shipments, by rail, with special attention to the
29 environmental health implications of these actions for residents.
- 30 • Baltimore City will aggressively pursue municipal renewable energy consumption
31 that supports in state generation of Offshore Wind in Maryland to encourage wind
32 technology manufacturing at the Port of Baltimore.
- 33 • Baltimore will develop aggressive policies and regulations that increase residential
34 conservation and energy efficiency measures regardless of the status of residents as
35 renters, owners, or operators.

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- 1 • Baltimore City will strive to disincentivize energy generation from incineration
2 technologies, a source of greenhouse gases, and mitigate health harms associated with
3 pollution from combustion.
- 4 • Baltimore City will develop a solid waste management plan that will curtail the use of
5 waste incineration, with the explicit aims of eliminating waste incineration and
6 protecting the workers involved.
- 7 • Baltimore City will work to develop and implement a comprehensive municipal food
8 scrap and yard waste door-to-door composting collection policy.
- 9 • Baltimore will work with other local governments, non-governmental organizations,
10 faith communities, and others to promote the adoption of an energy affordability plan
11 by the State of Maryland.
- 12 • Baltimore City will promote overall health by encouraging diets that reduce carbon
13 emissions, and will support local, urban agriculture programs and markets.
- 14 • Baltimore City will invest in comprehensive mass transportation that provides viable,
15 affordable, and accessible services for all.
- 16 • Baltimore City will promote equitable distribution of alternative transportation,
17 including bicycles, across neighborhoods.
- 18 • Baltimore City will advocate for fossil fuel free municipal and commercial fleets.
- 19 • Baltimore City will advocate for the targeted use of electric buses on routes where the
20 greatest air pollution levels exist within the City with the aim of reducing emissions
21 where vulnerable populations exist.
- 22 • Baltimore City will strive to incentivize efficient electric residential and commercial
23 heating systems, including in rental properties, to reduce the direct use of fossil fuels
24 in buildings, with emphasis on reduction of combustion sources.
- 25 • Baltimore City will promote energy efficiency and conservation and related
26 technologies including, solar hot water, air or ground-source heat pumps, and will
27 encourage industrial non-combustion alternatives where possible.
- 28 • Baltimore City will prioritize funding of sustainable land use decisions including
29 community land trusts, increased tree canopy programs and community greenspace.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
31 Council recognizes the importance of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; opposes the ill-advised
32 decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement; and commits to
33 practices that disrupt short-sighted trends in consumption of natural resources and degradation of
34 human health to create a liveable, economical, equitable, and just energy future for all
35 Baltimoreans regardless of age, race, income, or zip code.

36 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
37 Governor, the Chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Honorable Chairs and

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1 Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General
2 Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Mayor, and
3 the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0034R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reisinger, Clarke, Henry, Pinkett, Scott, Costello, President
Young, Councilmembers Cohen, Middleton, Stokes, Dorsey, Burnett, Sneed, Bullock
Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Adopted: October 16, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Request for State Action – Set a Strong Nitrogen Oxides Limit for the Wheelabrator
Baltimore Incinerator**

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland Department of the Environment to set a nitrogen oxides pollution limit for the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator that is no higher than the 150 ppm standard on a 24-hour average that has been adopted by Connecticut and New Jersey and proposed in Massachusetts, or, if at all possible, significantly lower than 150 ppm in order to provide maximum air quality benefits to residents of Baltimore.

Recitals

Emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) contribute to the formation of three pollutants in the ambient (outdoor) air: ground-level ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and fine particulate matter. Each of these pollutants can have adverse effects on human health, including worsening symptoms of asthma in people who already have the condition. Baltimore City has substantially higher rates of asthma hospitalizations and emergency room visits due to asthma than the rest of the State of Maryland.

The Baltimore area, which includes Baltimore City and five additional counties, is designated as a nonattainment area for ground-level ozone by the U.S. EPA, meaning that the area does not meet federal air quality standards for ozone. NOx is the primary pollutant that contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone.

Many factors contribute to Baltimore's ozone problem, including pollution from power plants located in other states. Locally, the municipal solid waste incinerator operated by Wheelabrator Baltimore, L.P. and located in South Baltimore is a major source of NOx emissions.

In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted 1,123 tons of NOx, making it the sixth largest emitter of NOx in the State of Maryland that year. The Baltimore incinerator also emitted more NOx per unit of energy generated in 2015 than any other large power plant in Maryland.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

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1 The Maryland Department of the Environment is in the process of developing regulations that
2 will establish new NOx emission limits for Maryland's two municipal solid waste incinerators,
3 including the Wheelabrator incinerator in Baltimore. These regulations are part of an air quality
4 plan that Maryland must submit to the EPA under the federal Clean Air Act to show that the state
5 is making progress toward attaining federal ozone standards.

6 The new NOx limits established under this rulemaking must, at minimum, meet a standard
7 called Reasonably Available Control Technology ("RACT"). The RACT standard is defined as
8 "the lowest emissions limit that a particular source is capable of meeting by the application of
9 control technology that is reasonably available considering technological and economic
10 feasibility."

11 MDE may not set NOx emission limits that are weaker and less health-protective than the
12 RACT standard. However, MDE has the authority to set NOx emission limits that are stronger
13 and more protective of health than the RACT standard.

14 Short-term emission limits for incinerators are expressed in parts per million by volume dry
15 at 7% oxygen (hereinafter "ppm"). The limit is frequently assessed based on a 24-hour average.
16 A NOx limit of 150 ppm on a 24-hour basis has been adopted as the RACT standard for
17 municipal solid waste incinerators by the states of Connecticut and New Jersey and has been
18 proposed for adoption in Massachusetts. New Jersey allows facility operators to seek an
19 exception in the form of an alternate limit.

20 Around 2009, the operator of Maryland's second municipal solid waste incinerator, the
21 Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility ("MCRRF"), voluntarily installed new NOx
22 pollution controls on that incinerator that reduced its NOx emissions by about half. From 2013
23 through 2015, MCRRF's annual average NOx emissions were about 85 to 89 ppm on a 24-hour
24 basis.

25 The Wheelabrator Baltimore's annual average NOx emissions from 2013 through 2015 were
26 162 to 169 ppm on a 24-hour basis. Its current NOx emissions limit is 205 ppm. Wheelabrator
27 Baltimore, L.P. has proposed that Maryland set a new NOx emissions limit of 170 ppm for the
28 Baltimore incinerator. According to the most recent calculations by the Maryland Department of
29 the Environment, this would reduce annual NOx emissions from the Baltimore incinerator by 60
30 tons per year.

31 The Council requests that the Maryland Department of the Environment use its legal
32 authority to go beyond the RACT standard in order to set a nitrogen oxides limit of 45 ppm on a
33 24-hour basis, which is the limit that would likely be set for a new incinerator.

34 The Baltimore incinerator receives financial benefits because it is treated as a Tier 1 source of
35 renewable energy under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Under this program,
36 Marylanders are supposed to reap benefits from renewable energy resources that include
37 long-term decreased emissions and a healthier environment.

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
39 Council urges the Maryland Department of the Environment to set a nitrogen oxides pollution
40 limit for the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator that is no higher than the 150 ppm standard on a
41 24-hour average that has been adopted by Connecticut and New Jersey and proposed in

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1 Massachusetts, or, if at all possible, significantly lower than 150 ppm in order to provide
2 maximum air quality benefits to residents of Baltimore.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
4 Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Director of the Air and Radiation
5 Management Administration, the Division Chief of the Air Quality Regulations Division, the
6 Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	17-0034R – Request for State Action – Set a Strong Nitrogen Oxides Limit for the Wheelabrator Baltimore Incinerator		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

Sept. 21, 2017

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review 17-0034R – Request for State Action – Set a Strong Nitrogen Oxides Limit for the Wheelabrator Baltimore Incinerator. The purpose of this resolution is to call upon the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to set stronger limits for the emissions of nitrogen oxide (NO₂) for the Wheelabrator.

The resolution will not impact BCHD operations, as BCHD does not enforce the standards being recommended for reduction. The positive impact of MDE reducing allowable NO₂ emissions for those living in the immediate area is difficult to measure. However, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Oxides of Nitrogen – Health Criteria (Final Report, 2016) serves to strengthen the cumulative body of evidence that indicates that short-term exposure to NO₂ can cause respiratory effects. In particular, these effects are related to asthma exacerbation, a disease that impacts Baltimore's children disproportionately.

Baltimore City suffers from high rates of asthma. The state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports 12.4% of Baltimore City adults have asthma, four points higher than the statewide average. Moreover, 1 in 5 children under the age of 18 in Baltimore City suffer from asthma, double the national average. These high rates lead to large losses of productivity through missed school and work days. Reduced air pollution realized through a Zero Waste plan could help the city lower its asthma rates.

BCHD appreciates the opportunity to review issues connected to NO₂ emissions at this informational hearings, and to provide information on the potential health benefits of lower emissions.



Leana S. Wen, M.D., M.Sc.
Commissioner of Health
Baltimore City

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1 “Baltimore City suffers from high rates of asthma. The state Department of Health
2 and Mental Hygiene reports 12.4% of Baltimore City adults have asthma, four
3 points higher than the statewide average. Moreover, 1 in 5 children under the age
4 of 18 in Baltimore City suffer from asthma, double the national average. These
5 high rates lead to large losses of productivity through missed school and work
6 days. Reduced air pollution realized through a Zero Waste plan could help the city
7 lower its asthma rates.”

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Emissions
9 Inventory, Wheelabrator Baltimore is the city’s single largest air polluter, releasing 57% of the
10 industrial emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) in Baltimore City, equivalent to emissions from
11 half of the cars or half of the trucks in the city, and is also the city’s largest source of air pollution
12 from benzo[a]pyrene, chromium VI, formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, lead, mercury, and sulfur
13 dioxides.

14 **WHEREAS**, in March 2018, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority released a
15 Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Baltimore City Recycling and Solid Waste Management
16 Master Plan with responses due April 26, 2018.

17 **WHEREAS**, scheduled negotiations between community advocates and the Department of
18 Public Works on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, were terminated by DPW at the end of that day when
19 DPW determined to proceed with its original bid document text and the 2-week extended bidder
20 due-date of Thursday, May 10, 2018.

21 **WHEREAS**, The current RFP fails to honor or reflect Baltimore City’s Zero Waste policies
22 by:

- 23 • limiting responses to only a narrow selection of on-call bidders who lack appropriate
24 experience in Zero Waste planning;
- 25 • disregarding City residents already at-risk of the health and environmental effects of
26 major incineration sources within the City itself;
- 27 • studying the continued use of the Wheelabrator Baltimore trash incinerator through 2040,
28 and biasing those studies by looking only at supposed benefits of incineration;
- 29 • studying new incineration schemes such as trash gasification (an expensive and failed
30 technology) and converting trash into pellets to be burned, as was proposed by the
31 controversial Energy Answers incinerator that Baltimore community members had to
32 spend five years fighting before it was stopped;
- 33 • considering the privatization, mining, or rapid filling of the City's public Quarantine Road
34 Landfill, none of which are in the public interest; and
- 35 • considering mixed waste processing, which entails no longer source separating recyclable
36 materials from trash, expecting machines to sort it all out, ending up with poor quality of
37 recyclables and fewer marketable materials

38 **WHEREAS**, community leaders and environmentalists object to the RFP and request that it be
39 revised and reissued to:

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- 1 • include a broader diversity of potential bidders, with special consideration paid to
2 including Zero Waste consultants in the United States who have experience developing
3 comprehensive Zero Waste plans without incineration, to ensure that a truly sustainable
4 plan is developed;
- 5 • amend the Statement of Work to reflect City policies, environmental concerns of
6 Baltimore residents, and greater commitments to public communication and
7 accountability throughout the project; and,
- 8 • schedule and undertake focused discussion with local environmentalists and City agency
9 representatives on specific amendments proposed by the local environmental team.

10 **WHEREAS**, in addition, the Baltimore City Council supports the local advocates’ insistence
11 that, for Baltimore City’s benefit, “All work done to develop this Master Plan must abide by
12 these City directives [Resolutions referenced above] by planning for an end to the use of
13 incineration by 1/1/2022, and must strictly abide by the internationally peer-reviewed Zero Waste
14 Hierarchy as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance” .

15 **WHEREAS**, the Council requests that amendments to the RFP specifically require that the
16 Zero Waste Hierarchy (as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance) be strictly followed;
17 that the Plan not consider any use of incineration beyond 12/31/2021 and plan for Wheelabrator
18 Baltimore to be closed after that time; that the Plan not consider privatizing, mining or rapidly
19 filling Quarantine Road Landfill, mixed waste processing, “solid recovered fuel production”, or
20 gasification; and that the plan focus on implementing Zero Waste, with closure of the incinerator
21 by 1/1/2022, replacement of the steam loop’s needs with non-burn alternatives, and setting up the
22 needed Zero Waste policies and infrastructure as rapidly as possible in order to maximize the life
23 of Quarantine Road Landfill.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
25 Council supports Baltimore City’s local team of Zero Waste experts and environmentalists in
26 calling upon the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, and the City’s representatives to
27 that Authority, to honor the Baltimore City Council’s express commitment to Zero Waste
28 policies by reissuing its recent Request For Proposals (RFP) to allow responses from a
29 nationwide universe of experienced Zero Waste consultants; and calls on the Authority to adopt
30 RFP amendments reflecting the City’s Zero Waste goals and the urgency of progress through this
31 Master Plan process.

32 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
33 Executive Director of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, the Director of Public
34 Works, the Chief of the Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Solid Waste; and the Mayor’s
35 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.