
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

June 13, 2022

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 22-0088R – Informational Hearing – CSX Coal Silo Explosion

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0088R for form and legal sufficiency. This resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from CSX Transportation, Inc., the Baltimore Fire Department, and the Office of Emergency Management to investigate the cause of the December 30, 2021 coal silo explosion in Curtis Bay, to address how to prevent such an incident in the future, and to address air quality remediation in the area.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may “exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City,” and may “pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City.” City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47).

A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an investigative hearing. See, e.g., *Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988). Therefore, the Law Department approves this Resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochstetler
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor