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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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May 3, 2023

Honorable President  
Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 23-0168R – Investigative Hearing – State of Maternal Health in  
Baltimore City

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0168R. The bill requests representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore Police Department, and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss maternal health in Baltimore City, including the current state of maternal health and any inequities that currently exist in maternal health delivery and outcomes.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards.

Council Bill 23-0168R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request the specified officials to attend to provide information on maternal health in Baltimore City and inequities that exist in maternal health delivery and outcomes. The Law Department approves Council Bill 23-0168R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth  
Special Solicitor

cc: Nina Themelis  
Sofia Gebrehiwot  
Elena DiPietro  
Hilary Ruley  
Ashlea Brown  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Teresa Cummings