

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 22-0136R – Informational Hearing – Status of the Baltimore City Municipal Identification Card Program		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

February 17, 2023

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 22-0136R, Informational Hearing – Status of the Baltimore City Municipal Identification Card Program, the purpose of which is to have various agencies discuss the Baltimore City Municipal Identification Card Program.

In 2016, the City enacted Ordinance 16-586, which established the Baltimore City Municipal Identification Card Program. The Mayor’s Office of Information Technology, now Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology, is designated as the agency to administer the Program. The Program is intended to provide identification to City residents who are unable to obtain identification for various reasons, including obtaining identification that reflects a resident’s gender identity, and requires it to be accepted by City agencies as valid proof of identity and residency. The Center for Popular Democracy states that municipal identification programs are useful for residents who are undocumented immigrants, homeless, transgender, or formerly incarcerated.

Municipalities across the country have implemented municipal identification programs, including New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, and New Haven, Connecticut. These programs have provided identification to residents, including residents as young as 10, that can be used as a valid form of identification at health clinics and libraries, in interactions with police, to open checking accounts, and enroll in government services and local schools. Budgets for these programs range from over \$16 million in New York City to \$643,645 in Chicago to approximately \$338,000 in Philadelphia, including various levels of staffing. One concern when implementing a municipal identification program is the protection of data collected through the program, specifically for undocumented immigrants. In 2022, Detroit suspended the Detroit ID program over concerns that the program vendor may have leaked data, which was then accessible by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to any fiscal inquiries.

cc: Michael Moiseyev
Nina Themelis