



## **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### ***Mission Statement***

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Public Safety Committee will be responsible for matters concerning public safety, including, but not limited to; emergency preparedness, police services, fire/EMS, & their administrative functions.*

**The Honorable Mark Conway  
Chair**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2025  
12:00 PM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**25-0005**

***Arson Offender Registry***

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### **BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS (BA)**

Danielle McCray - Chair  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Vice Chair  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Paris Gray  
Antonio Glover  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)**

Mark Conway - Chair  
Zac Blanchard – Vice Chair  
Danielle McCray  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer  
Paris Gray  
Phylicia Porter  
Antonio Glover  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

### **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (HCD)**

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Zac Blanchard  
Jermaine Jones  
Danielle McCray  
Antonio Glover  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

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Mark Parker  
Ryan Dorsey  
James Torrence  
John Bullock  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

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James Torrence – Vice Chair  
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Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

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John Bullock  
Phylicia Porter  
Zac Blanchard  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

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Mark Parker – Vice Chair  
Sharon Green Middleton  
James Torrence  
Zac Blanchard  
Jermaine Jones  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

### **LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)**

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer - Chair  
Antonio Glover – Vice Chair  
Ryan Dorsey  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Paris Gray  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



## Bill Hearing

Committee: Public Safety Committee

25-0005

### Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

**Purpose:**

FOR the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner, and providing for a special effective date.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,  
Article 19 – Police Ordinances  
Section 61-3(a)  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

#### **REPORTING AGENCIES**

Law Dept	Approve for form and sufficiency
Fire Dept	Favorable w/ amendment
Police Dept	Favorable

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Bill Summary**

This bill, if enacted, would amend the registration requirement for those who have been convicted of a malicious burning or arson offense. Currently, those charged with such offenses must register with the Police Commissioner if they have been charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense. This amendment would remove that requirement for a subsequent charge and require offenders, even if they just have the one applicable charge, to register with the Police Commissioner. According to the report from the Law Department, this would bring the requirement in line with the Gun Offender Registry.

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### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

**Fiscal Note:**

The Police report on this bill indicates that BPD does not foresee any increased cost or impact as a result of this legislation if enacted.

BCFD also does not anticipate any fiscal impact due to this bill.

**Information Source(s):**

25-0005 1<sup>st</sup> Reader, Agency Reports

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Analysis by: Tony Leva  
Analysis Date: April 21, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 25-0005  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: The Council President  
At the request of: The Administration (Mayor's Office of Government Relations)  
Cosponsored by: Councilmember Schleifer  
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025  
Assigned to: Public Safety Committee  
REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department, Fire Department

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police  
4 Commissioner; and providing for a special effective date.

5 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,  
6 Article 19 – Police Ordinances  
7 Section 61-3(a)  
8 Baltimore City Code  
9 (Edition 2000)

10 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
11 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

12 **Baltimore City Code**

13 **Article 19. Police Ordinances**

14 **Subtitle 61. Arson Offender Registration**

15 **§ 61-3. Registration – In general.**

16 (a) *Registration required.*

17 An arson or malicious burning offender must register with the [Commissioner if the  
18 offender is charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense.]  
19 COMMISSIONER.

20 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
21 enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

# **Baltimore City Council**



## **Land Use & Transportation Committee**

**25-0005**

**Arson Offender Registry**

## **Agency Reports**



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Erin C. Murphy – Director of Government Relations – Baltimore Police Department
<b>CC</b>	Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	2/13/25
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0005 Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

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**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 25-0005, for the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner; and providing for a special effective date.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

The Baltimore Police Department will maintain and monitor the arson offender registry in compliance with City Council Bill 25-0005 and Article 19 – Police Ordinances, Section 61-3(a) of the Baltimore City Code. The Baltimore Police Department will update, monitor and maintain the arson registry. It is the responsibility of the State’s Attorney’s Office to request registration as a part of an offender’s sentence. An offender’s sentence is within the discretion of the trial court.

***FISCAL IMPACT***

The Baltimore Police Department does not anticipate a fiscal impact if this legislation is enacted.

***AMENDMENTS***

The Baltimore Police Department has no requested amendments for Council Bill 25-0005.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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January 17, 2025

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

Re: City Council Bill 25-0005 – Arson Offender Registry

Dear President Cohen, Vice President Middleton, and Members of the Council:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0005 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would alter the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner. Specifically, existing City law requires an arson offender to register if the offender is charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense. The bill would alter this requirement to state that “[a]n arson or malicious burning offender must register with the Commissioner.” The bill would take effect on the date it is enacted.

The Arson Offender Registry was enacted by Ordinance 23-254. The propriety of enacting an Arson Offender Registry was established at that time. This amendment requires a person to register as an offender upon a conviction for arson or malicious burning rather than upon a subsequent charge for arson or malicious burning following the initial conviction. This amendment brings the registration requirement for the Arson Offender Registry in line with the registration requirement for the Gun Offender Registry. *See* City Code Art. 19, § 60-3(a).

The Law Department can approve Council Bill 25-0005 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele M. Toth".

Michele M. Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Ty’lor Schnella  
Ethan Hasiuk  
Tiffany Maclin  
Hilary Ruley  
Ashlea Brown



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Chief James Wallace, Baltimore City Fire Chief, Baltimore City Fire Department
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	February 13, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0005 Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

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**POSITION: Favorable with amendments**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

This bill changes the requirement of when a person must register on the Arson Offender Registry with the Police Commission.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

BCFD supports this legislation, with the amendments submitted by the Administration, as such registries may be able to assist in solving more cases, deterring repeat offenders, and preventing property damage and death.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This bill will not have a fiscal impact on BCFD.