

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Mr. James S. Clack, Chief of Fire Department <i>JSC</i>
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street - 21202
	SUBJECT	The Baltimore City Fire Department objects to Certain portions of City Council Bill # 12-0115

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE:

The Honorable Bernard C. Young, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408

August 8, 2012

The Baltimore City Fire Department has carefully reviewed Council Bill 12-0115. We support certain provisions contained within this bill and object to others. Below please find our comments on the individual sections within the bill.

2-1. Plan required. We support the idea that a Baltimore City Fire Department Strategic Plan be presented to the Mayor and City Council every five years. This plan should be developed by the Fire Chief with participation and input from the Board of Fire Commissioners. We believe the plan should not be limited to fire protection, but include all aspects of fire and emergency services delivery. The next revision of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Mayor in the spring of the year 2013 and cover budget years FY2014 to FY2018.

2-2. Required elements and factors.

Elements of the plan. Specific recommendations for equipment and the associated personnel to staff units will be a part of the strategic plan, but the specific geographic locations where individual response units are quartered cannot be static for five years. Improved CAD technology with AVL capability as well as modern response equipment deployment models allow for a much more dynamic response profile to address changing demand for emergency services. These changes in demand for our emergency response services happen hourly within the City of Baltimore, not every five years as outlined in the bill.

Future changes in the demand for every type of emergency response must be addressed with changes in our response assets so that the most efficient and effective response model is adopted each budget year. This may require adding or removing specific types of companies or units on an annual or even more frequent basis. The annual budget process drives resource levels available to the fire department to meet service demands.

Factors on which plan to be based. The primary factors should include:

1. Changes in the type and volume of demands for emergency service.
2. Response time performance by type of resource and geographic location within the city.

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2-3. Adoption procedures. No objections.

2-4. Adherence to adopted plan. The current language is much too restrictive and does not allow the Fire Chief the flexibility necessary to manage the department to meet service demands. This section should be struck from the bill.

2-5. Consolidations, Relocations, and Closings.

- **Hearing Required:** We have no objection to holding a public hearing when a decision is made to consolidate or close any unit. The relocation of units is done on a daily basis and should not require a public hearing.
- **Notice of Hearing:** Consolidations and closures will be done on a budget year basis, therefore the normal budget hearing process already contains all the notice requirements listed in the bill. In addition to the normal budget process, the department will hold community meetings upon the request of any community association or other community based organization.
- **Final Decision:** No objection.

Cc: Mr. Alexander M. Sanchez, Chief of Staff

Ms. Barbara Zektick, Deputy Chief Public Safety & Operations