



# **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **Mission Statement**

*The Budget and Appropriations Committee is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.*

**The Honorable Danielle McCray**

**CHAIR**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*26-0186*

*Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation  
– Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096*

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**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray  
CHAIR****Bill Hearing***26-0186**Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096*

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Purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$612,096 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for a wide range of law enforcement needs, including investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs, as well as awards, memorials, and prevention programs such as drug or gang education; and providing for a special effective date.

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***REPORTING AGENCIES***

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form & Legal Sufficiency with Amendment

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***BACKGROUND***

This special revenue represents an Equitable Sharing Agreement with the United States Department of Justice through the Asset Forfeiture Program. Funds will support the Deputy Sheriff Enforcement (Service 882) for a wide range of law enforcement needs, including investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs, as well as awards, memorials, and prevention programs such as drug or gang education.

The Law Department amendment adjusts the citation of authority to Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and indicates that the grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated. Additionally, the amendment inserts the language to indicate federal funds.

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***FISCAL NOTE***

An additional \$612,096 has been appropriated to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office for Fiscal Year 2026. This adjustment is necessary to incorporate this unbudgeted revenue.

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**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 26-0186  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Department of Finance)

Introduced and read first time: April 27, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation –**  
3 **Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation  
5 in the amount of \$612,096 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy  
6 Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for a wide range of law enforcement needs,  
7 including investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs, as well  
8 as awards, memorials, and prevention programs such as drug or gang education; and  
9 providing for a special effective date.

10 BY authority of  
11 Article VI - Board of Estimates  
12 Section 8(b)(2)(iii) and (c)  
13 Baltimore City Charter  
14 (1996 Edition)

15 **Recitals**

16 The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents \$612,096 from the United States  
17 Department of Justice in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in  
18 determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

19 This appropriation is made necessary by a material change in circumstances since the  
20 Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated or is for a new program that could  
21 not have been reasonably anticipated when that Ordinance of Estimates was formulated.

22 On April 15, 2026, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City  
23 Council.

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

**Council Bill 26-0186**

1       **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That  
2 \$612,096 shall be made available to Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office – Service 882 (Deputy  
3 Sheriff Enforcement) as a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation for  
4 Fiscal Year 2026, to provide funding for a wide range of law enforcement needs, including  
5 investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs, as well as awards,  
6 memorials, and prevention programs such as drug or gang education. The source of revenue for  
7 this appropriation is \$612,096 from the United States Department of Justice in excess of the  
8 amount from this source that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy  
9 required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 26-0186  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reader Copy)**

By: The Administration (Department of Law)  
{To be offered to the Budget and Appropriations Committee}

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 1, in line 12, strike “8(b)(2)(iii)” and substitute “8(b)(2)(ii)”; and, on that same page, in line 16, after “represents” insert “a grant in federal funds in the amount of”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 19 through 21, inclusive, and substitute:

“The grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.”;

and, on page 2, in line 7, after “is” insert “a grant in federal funds in the amount of”.

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0186

*Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation  
– Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096*

# Agency Reports

# Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

Main Office  
The Clarence Mitchell Courthouse  
100 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-396-1155  
Fax: 410-727-3507



District Court Office  
111 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-396-7412  
Fax: 410-396-7439

TO: The Honorable President of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Executive Secretary

FROM: Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq., Assistant Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO)

RE: City Council Bill #26-0186 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating  
Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096

DATE: May 11, 2026

## POSITION: SUPPORT

Mr. President and Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council:

The Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has reviewed City Council Bill #26-0186 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096 and **supports** its passage, for the reasons explained below.

CCB #26-0186 is the mechanism by which the Mayor and City Council legally accepts and appropriates into the BCSO's current fiscal year budget, \$612,096 in federal asset forfeiture funds received through the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program. Specifically, these funds derive as the BCSO share of assets arising out of work from the Baltimore Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force. The Baltimore OCDETF is a multijurisdictional, regional collaborative law enforcement initiative that includes participation from federal, state, and local partners based in the Baltimore region, including local support and collaboration between the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office (BCSAO) and the BCSO.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests your **support** for CCB #26-0186.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. T. R. Blendy".

Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq.  
Assistant Sheriff



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Bob Cenname, Deputy Finance Director <i>Bob Cenname</i>
<b>DATE</b>	May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	26-0186 Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office – \$612,096

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

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0186, Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation - Sheriff - \$612,096, the purpose of which is to increase the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation of Special Revenue Fund by \$612,096 to Sheriff, Service 882: Deputy Sheriff Enforcement.

**Background**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents an Equitable Sharing Agreement with the United States Department of Justice. In Fiscal 2026, the Sheriff’s Office did not have an appropriation for unallocated Special Revenue Funds. However, the Sheriff’s Office received these funds through an Equitable Sharing Agreement for \$612,096 in Special Revenue Funds. This bill will make \$612,096 available to Sheriff-Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement) to support a wide range of law enforcement needs, including investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency spending based on the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplemental appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Sheriff requires supplemental appropriation due to an Equitable Sharing Agreement with the United States Department of Justice. This supplemental appropriation of \$612,096 is necessary to accommodate these unbudgeted revenues. The funds from the Equitable Sharing Agreement will be used to cover these supplemental expenses.

**Conclusion**

This supplemental appropriation is required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary due to new revenue.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0186.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis

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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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May 7, 2026

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 26-0186 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation –  
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$612,096

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 26-0186 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$612,096 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for a wide range of law enforcement needs, including investigations, training, facilities, equipment, travel, and operational costs, as well as awards, memorials, and prevention programs such as drug or gang education. The Ordinance would take effect on the date of its enactment.

Council Bill 26-0186 identifies the revenue appropriated as "\$612,096 from the United States Department of Justice in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026." According to the Bureau of Budget Management Research (BBMR) Memo to the Board of Estimates (BOE), the BOE is requested to approve a transfer and allocation of funds from the asset forfeiture fund with the U.S. Department of Justice. The BBMR Memo further notes that "The City received the dollars from the Department of Justice in September 2025. These dollars were not accounted for in the Sheriff's FY26 budget. This supplemental appropriation will allow them to spend down these monies." The funds from The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program must be used solely for a variety of local law enforcement activities.

The Council bill cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(iii) of Article VI of the City Charter which provides:

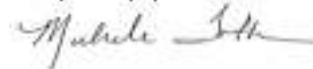
Further appropriations for programs included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates made necessary by a material change in circumstances, or additional appropriations for new programs that could not reasonably be anticipated at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure by a supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the City Council by the Board of Estimates, duly passed by the City Council by a vote of three-fourths of its members and approved by the Mayor.

The bill correctly identifies the appropriated funds as federal. However, the bill does not identify any changed circumstance or new program. Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the Charter provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure. The asset forfeiture funds are a grant from the federal government, which was received by the City in September 2025, and left out of the Sheriff's budget. This appropriation is required so that the Sheriff's Office can spend these federal funds.

An amendment is required to Council Bill 26-0186 to correct the citation of authority for this bill. On page 1 of Council Bill 26-0186 in line 12 delete "Section 8(b)(2)(iii)" and in its place insert "Section 8(b)(2)(ii)". Additionally, on page 1, lines 19 through 21 should be removed in their entirety and replaced with the following provision: "The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant of federal funds from United States Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026." Following this provision insert "The grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated." The bill notes that the Board of Estimates has recommended this appropriation to the City Council.

A supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a "single program, purpose, activity or project." City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). The funds are being allocated to Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement) in the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office. Since the bill meets these legal requirements, Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency with the required amendments.

Very truly yours,



Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Council President Cohen  
Ethan Hasiuk  
Shamoyia Gardiner  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Desiree Luckey  
Ahleah Clark