



*BRANDON M. SCOTT*  
*Mayor*  
*250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street*  
*Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, Council President  
Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0121 - American Rescue Plan Funds – Performance Oversight

Dear Honorable President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

After careful consideration, I have chosen to allow City Council Bill 21-0121 to go into law without my signature pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter.

City Council Bill 21-0121 requires the Director of the Department of Finance to provide a series of monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the City Council as a part of an oversight process for the disbursement of American Rescue Plan Funds received by the City of Baltimore.

My Administration, and more specifically the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs which is responsible for administering all aspects of ARPA funding and regularly reporting to the federal government and the public, is happy to be held accountable for ensuring the best use of this historic funding. In fact, when the companion resolution to this legislation was introduced, 21-0062R - American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings, the Office of Recovery Programs proactively scheduled meetings to coordinate hearing dates to align with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's reporting deadlines to guarantee that the hearings would be as productive and transparent as possible.

However, the bill has failed to meet the Law Department's threshold for legal form and sufficiency. While well-intended and temporary in nature, the legislation conflicts with the City Charter and includes vague language that will make it difficult to ensure comprehensive and reliable compliance with the reporting requirements.

It has always been my intention to ensure the City Council and members of the public are able to have visibility into the usage of these funds. Consequently, while the legislation does not meet legal sufficiency, my Administration welcomes the opportunity to provide regular reporting to the City Council

concerning the disbursement and expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Funds. For that reason, I am allowing this legislation to go into law without my signature.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon M. Scott".

Brandon M. Scott  
*Mayor*  
*City of Baltimore*

Cc: Lawrence Anderson, Office of the Council President  
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary for the City Council  
Nikki Thompson, Office of the Council President  
Shamiah Kerney, Director, Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs  
Henry Raymond, Director, Department of Finance  
Natasha Mehu, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nina Themelis, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations