



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

January 25, 2022

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: City Council Bill #21-0064R
Investigational Hearing- Urban Farming

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0064R for the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Police department along with other relevant agencies and stakeholders to brief the City Council on standards, procedures, policies and practices relevant to regulating urban farms and community gardens in Baltimore City, and to discuss possible revisions of current standards to allow urban farms to operate safely and successfully.

The BPD recognizes the important role that urban farms and community gardens play in increasing neighborhood vitality, access to food, and providing education on a wide array of subjects ranging from nutrition education to natural ecosystems.

The Baltimore Police Department does not provide for public safety at all urban farms and community gardens in the same way. Rather than a generic and uniform response, individual District Commanders assess risk and work with farm managers and garden volunteers to address any known or emerging security concerns. Developing these types of community policing plans allows us to build strong bonds and long-lasting relationships with neighborhood leaders, including farm and garden coordinators. We will continue to support urban farms, community gardens and residents in this important way.

The BPD has no objections to City Council Bill 21-0064R. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

c/o 242 West 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2908



Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Nina Themalis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff