

# Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

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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 #26-0183 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –  
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308

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 (CCB) #26-0183 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308 and **supports** its passage, for the reasons explained below.

CCB #26-0183 is the mechanism by which the Mayor and City Council legally accepts and appropriates into the BCSO's current fiscal year budget, \$121,308 in Maryland State grant funds. Specifically, these funds are part of the State's Safe Pathways COAP (Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program through Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program) initiative, which will expand diversion, improve treatment access, and improve overdose response.

The BCSO is on the front lines of crisis response and community trust-building. The funds from this grant embeds Peer Recovery Specialists from Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc (BCRI) with BCSO deputies, trains all sworn & civilian staff in overdose/diversion, as well as judges, courthouse staff, and potentially thousands of visitors in the courthouse (site-based); and links survivors and justice-involved individuals to MAT, housing, and wraparound supports. With 344 events in 80 neighborhoods in 2024 and zero 911 calls reported, BCSO believes it is uniquely positioned to advance recovery and save lives.

During Fiscal Year 2026, the BCSO sought funding mechanisms to help offset the costs on the existing budget, as part of its efforts to identify and win funding to do important work for the residents of the City while not being solely reliant on Mayor and City Council of Baltimore funds. Accordingly, the

BCSO has applied for multiple highly competitive federal and state grants this fiscal year, and been very successful on several fronts, including the grant award before you to provide funding for innovative opioid treatment and training that is the subject of this bill.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests your **support** for CCB #26-0183.

Respectfully,



Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq.  
Assistant Sheriff