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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0060 – Study and Report-Fire Department Promotional Practices		

TO

DATE:

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

May 10, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0060, Study and Report-Fire Department Promotional Practices, the purpose of which is to require that the Baltimore City Fire Department submit a report evaluating certain promotional practices to the Mayor and City Council.

Background

This legislation requires that the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), in consultation with other agencies, conduct a study and submit a report that includes several components related to the promotional practices of BCFD. Specifically, a cost benefit analysis associated with conducting the supervisory promotional tests, a comprehensive review of the educational requirements used to participate in the promotional exam process, a comparative analysis of at least five (5) other fire departments of similar size that currently use application fees for candidates to participate in promotional examinations, and an equity assessment of the Battalion Chief rank as a civil service position.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance does not anticipate a cost for the City as a result of this legislation as the work will be completed internally by the named agencies.

Other Considerations

The Department of Finance's Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) is specifically cited to be engaged in this study and report. While Finance and BBMR support the intent of this legislation and are eager to assess how the findings of this study can be utilized in budget planning and projections, the only role that BBMR could play in such a study is providing reports on historical budgets and positions. BBMR will provide what data is necessary from budget systems, but BCFD manages all current information regarding their promotional practices.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance defers to the technical expertise of the named agencies on this legislation in their findings.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0060.

cc: Henry Raymond
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