

Council Bill 22-0127R

1 The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has the potential to revolutionize how we provide
2 resources for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. An effective, fully-funded system
3 will reduce barriers to accessing help and ensure that equitable care is available to everyone,
4 regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

5 While the purpose of the Lifeline is commendable, the logistics of its nationwide rollout have
6 been hampered by a lack of staff, resources, follow-through, and consistent federal funding. This
7 is the beginning of an important new phase in mental health care and communities should be
8 equipped to handle the needs of their residents, reduce reliance on the police and hospitals for
9 mental health crises, and deliver timely and effective help to people in crisis.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
11 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore City
12 Fire Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Department of Finance, the Baltimore
13 City Law Department, and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss
14 the implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, its anticipated impact on individuals
15 that use this resource, and the implementation plan for Baltimore City.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
17 of Health, the Chief of the Fire Department, the Police Commissioner, the Director of Finance,
18 the City Solicitor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.