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	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 24-0489 – Informational Hearing		

March 11, 2024

TO: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Education, Workforce and Youth Committee

Background

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0489 – Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission – Amendment. The bill proposes crucial amendments to the Youth Commission, encompassing updates to its composition, the mandate for compensation for young commissioners, establishment of an Executive Committee, delineation of membership and duty prerequisites, and the mandate for adopting and regularly reviewing a constitution and bylaws. Furthermore, these amendments make it clear that MOCFS will provide staff and support to the Commission as well as requires city agencies to cooperate with the Commission.

The previous iteration of the Commission has been inactive for quite some time, which has left the Commission in dire need of reorganization. MOCFS is charged with radically improving the lives of children and families. In pursuit of this crucial objective, it is imperative that the re-imagining of the Youth Commission occurs, guaranteeing that young people not only have an undisputed voice but also possess a tangible and influential seat at the decision-making table.

The commission plays a pivotal role in guiding and advising both the Mayor and the City Council on matters directly impacting the youth demographic. Its responsibilities encompass extensive research into pertinent youth-related issues, crafting informed recommendations on policies and programs, and actively advocating for the advancement of youth development initiatives. Updating the enabling legislation is not merely a formality but a vital necessity to ensure that the commission possesses the necessary authority, resources, and structure to effectively fulfill its mandate in a rapidly evolving social landscape.

Conclusion

MOCFS is confident that these amendments will decisively tackle the barriers to operationalization, propelling the Youth Commission into a highly coveted and impactful platform for youth and young adults.

Cc: Faith Leach
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