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Patrick Moran – President

City of Baltimore - Council Bill 25-0060
Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Budget & Appropriations Committee
June 10, 2025
Position: Support with Amendments

AFSCME Council 3 proudly represents nearly 4,000 dedicated public servants working across Baltimore's city agencies, libraries, and schools. Our members are the people who make the city function every day—whether by maintaining daily sanitation services and clean drinking water, preparing and serving meals to schoolchildren, ensuring their safe transportation, or assisting residents at city offices and library branches. They are the essential, often unseen workforce that keeps Baltimore running.

Tragically, in the past year, our union endured two devastating losses. Brothers Ronald Silver II and Timothy Cartwell died in preventable, line-of-duty incidents while working for the Department of Public Works. Brother Silver II succumbed to a heat-related illness during a sweltering workday on his sanitation route. Brother Cartwell was fatally crushed by a backing truck while performing the same duties. At the time of their deaths, both were earning just over \$19 an hour.

These tragedies are emblematic of larger, systemic issues. As of February 2025, the Department of Public Works was operating with a 16% vacancy rate among our frontline bargaining unit positions. Citywide, that figure was nearly 18%. These chronic understaffing levels put workers—and the public—at risk. Our members perform difficult, physically demanding jobs under increasingly unsafe conditions, and they deserve fair compensation that reflects the value and hazards of their work.

Despite their critical roles, too many AFSCME members do not earn a living wage. Many are paid only slightly above minimum wage and must juggle multiple jobs just to cover basic expenses. They serve in aging facilities, endure unsafe conditions, and stretch themselves thin to deliver the services residents rely on every day. Public service should not come at the cost of personal hardship or safety.

More must be done. We are calling on City leadership to ensure the FY2026 budget includes the necessary resources to fund:

- **Fair and competitive wage increases**
- **Safe and sustainable staffing levels**
- **Improved and safe working conditions**

The public servants of Baltimore deserve dignity, safety, and compensation that reflects the essential work they perform. Thank you for your continued support of those who serve our city every day.