


F R O M	Name & Title	Dante Stewart, Acting Fire Chief <i>DPS</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street, Mezzanine		
	Subject	City Council Bill #21-0074 – Office of Emergency Management – Independent Agency		

TO: The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, President
 And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
 City Hall, Room 408

DATE: March 15, 2023

The proposed legislation repeals Article 1, Subtitle 18 {“Disaster Control and Civil Defense”} as obsolete; establishes an Office of Emergency Management as an independent agency; defines certain terms; provides for the appointment of an Executive Director of the Office; sets forth certain duties of the Executive Director; and, provides for staffing, budgets and required plans.

Across the country, jurisdictions operate Emergency Management functions in ways that best suit the jurisdiction. In some, they operate as independent agencies, but many, including those in Baltimore County, Philadelphia, and Wilmington, operate as a division within the Fire Department. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) functions independently within the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD). The Executive Director of OEM is appointed by the Mayor, but serves as a Deputy Chief in the BCFD. This connection enables OEM to access the administrative and operational support that it needs to carry out all of its duties and responsibilities.

The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) opposes passage of Council Bill 21-0074.

DS/kw