



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

The Honorable Danielle McCray

CHAIR

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

9:00 AM

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26-0183

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore
City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308*

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**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray
CHAIR****Bill Hearing**

26-0183

Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308

Purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$121,308 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within the Sheriff's Office; and providing for a special effective date.

REPORTING AGENCIES

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form & Legal Sufficiency

BACKGROUND

This grant is awarded from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to expand diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within the Sheriff's Office. This project embeds Peer Recovery Specialists from Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc. (BCRI) with Baltimore City Sheriff deputies, trains all sworn and civilian staff in overdose/diversion, as well as judges, courthouse staff and potentially thousands of visitors in the courthouse (site-based); and links survivors and justice-involved individuals to MAT, housing, and wraparound supports.

FISCAL NOTE

An additional \$121,308 has been appropriated to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office for Fiscal Year 2026. This supplemental funding, provided by a State of Maryland grant, will support Deputy Sheriff Enforcement (Service 882) for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within the Sheriff's office. This adjustment is necessary to incorporate unanticipated grant funding received from the State of Maryland.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0183
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Department of Finance)

Introduced and read first time: April 27, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –**
3 **Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the
5 amount of \$121,308 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff
6 Enforcement), to provide funding for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose
7 response within the Sheriff's Office; and providing for a special effective date.

8 BY authority of

9 Article VI - Board of Estimates
10 Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)
11 Baltimore City Charter
12 (1996 Edition)

13 **Recitals**

14 The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the State of Maryland's
15 Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in excess of the revenue relied on by the
16 Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year
17 2026.

18 That grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of
19 Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.

20 On April 15, 2026, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City
21 Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 26-0183

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
2 \$121,308 shall be made available to the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office – Service 882 (Deputy
3 Sheriff Enforcement) as a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation for Fiscal Year
4 2026, to provide funding for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within
5 the Sheriff’s Office. The source of revenue for this appropriation is a grant from the State of
6 Maryland’s Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in excess of the amount from this
7 source that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to
8 balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

9 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
10 enacted.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0183

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore
City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308*

Agency Reports

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

Main Office
The Clarence Mitchell Courthouse
100 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-396-1155
Fax: 410-727-3507



District Court Office
111 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-396-7412
Fax: 410-396-7439

TO: The Honorable President of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary

FROM: Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq., Assistant Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO)

RE: City Council Bill #26-0183 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308

DATE: May 11, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

Mr. President and Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council:

The Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has reviewed City Council Bill (CCB) #26-0183 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308 and **supports** its passage, for the reasons explained below.

CCB #26-0183 is the mechanism by which the Mayor and City Council legally accepts and appropriates into the BCSO's current fiscal year budget, \$121,308 in Maryland State grant funds. Specifically, these funds are part of the State's Safe Pathways COAP (Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program through Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program) initiative, which will expand diversion, improve treatment access, and improve overdose response.

The BCSO is on the front lines of crisis response and community trust-building. The funds from this grant embeds Peer Recovery Specialists from Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc (BCRI) with BCSO deputies, trains all sworn & civilian staff in overdose/diversion, as well as judges, courthouse staff, and potentially thousands of visitors in the courthouse (site-based); and links survivors and justice-involved individuals to MAT, housing, and wraparound supports. With 344 events in 80 neighborhoods in 2024 and zero 911 calls reported, BCSO believes it is uniquely positioned to advance recovery and save lives.

During Fiscal Year 2026, the BCSO sought funding mechanisms to help offset the costs on the existing budget, as part of its efforts to identify and win funding to do important work for the residents of the City while not being solely reliant on Mayor and City Council of Baltimore funds. Accordingly, the

BCSO has applied for multiple highly competitive federal and state grants this fiscal year, and been very successful on several fronts, including the grant award before you to provide funding for innovative opioid treatment and training that is the subject of this bill.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests your **support** for CCB #26-0183.

Respectfully,



Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq.
Assistant Sheriff



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Bob Cennane, Deputy Finance Director <i>Bob Cennane</i>
DATE	May 11 th , 2026
SUBJECT	26-0183 Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308

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

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0183, Supplementary State Grant Fund Operating Appropriation – Sheriff - \$121,308, the purpose of which is to increase the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation of State Funds by \$121,308 to Sheriff, Service 882: Deputy Service Enforcement.

Background

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Policy. In Fiscal 2026, the Sheriff did not have an appropriation for unallocated State funds. However, the Sheriff received this grant for \$121,308 in State funds. This bill will make \$121,308 available to Sheriff-Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement) for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within the Sheriff's office.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency spending based on the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplemental appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

Fiscal Impact

The Sheriff requires supplemental appropriation due to an unanticipated grant. This supplemental appropriation of \$121,308 is necessary to accommodate these unbudgeted revenues. The grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Policy will be used to cover these supplemental expenses.

Conclusion

This supplemental appropriation is required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary due to new revenue.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0183.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

May 7, 2026

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 26-0183 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore
City Sheriff's Office – \$121,308

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 26-0183 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$121,308 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for diversion services, treatment access, and overdose response within the Sheriff's Office. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment. The supplemental appropriation would fund the "Safe Pathways COAP (Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program through Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's Comprehensive Opioid Use Site-based Program) initiative, which will expand diversion, improve treatment access, and improve overdose response."

Council Bill 26-0183 identifies the revenue appropriated as "a grant from the State of Maryland's Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026." The grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated, and the bill has been recommended by the Board of Estimates to the City Council. The Council bill cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure.

A supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a "single program, purpose, activity or project." City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). Since the bill meets these requirements, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Council President Cohen
Ethan Hasiuk
Shamoyia Gardiner
Nina Themelis
Ty'lor Schnella
Aaron Degraffenreidt
Hilary Ruley
Jeff Hochstetler
Ashlea Brown
Desiree Luckey
Ahleah Clark