



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 22-0091R

Informational Hearing - The Effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on First Responders

Sponsor: Councilmember McCray, et al

Introduced: February 22, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Sheriff, the Chief of the Baltimore City School Police, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Chief of the Baltimore City Environmental Police, and the Director of the Department of Human Resources to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss how post-traumatic stress symptoms, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compassion fatigue, and burnout effect first responders and to inform the Council on intervention programs that are currently in place to provide City employees with relief from trauma and burnout.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Police Department	
Fire Department	Comments
Baltimore City Public School System	
Sheriff's Office	
Department of Human Resources	Comments
Mayor's Office of Emergency Management	
Department of Public Works	Comments
Health Department	
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites agency officials and representatives, and other interested parties, to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss how post-traumatic stress symptoms, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compassion fatigue, and burnout effect first responders and to inform the Council on intervention programs that are currently in place to provide City employees with relief from trauma and burnout.

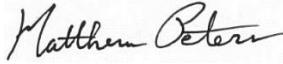
A 2018 report commissioned by the Ruderman Family Foundation found that PTSD and depression rates among firefighters and police officers are up to 5 times higher than the rates within the civilian population. It further noted that suicide rates among first responders are considerably higher than the general population (firefighters: 18/100,000; police officers: 17/100,000; general population 13/100,000). Beyond increased suicide risk, untreated mental illness, such as PTSD and depression, can lead to poor physical health, impaired judgement, and other negative outcomes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- Ruderman Family Foundation, Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders
https://rudermanfoundation.org/white_papers/police-officers-and-firefighters-are-more-likely-to-die-by-suicide-than-in-line-of-duty/
- Reporting Agencies
- Resolution 22-0091R

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