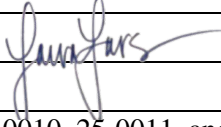




CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
DATE	February 7 th , 2025
SUBJECT	25-0007, 25-0008, 25-0009, 25-0010, 25-0011, and 25-0012 Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0007, 25-0008, 25-0009, 25-0010, 25-0011, 25-0012, Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation, the purpose of which is to appropriate money from the Opioid Restitution Fund.

Background

This package of bills seeks to appropriate \$14,643,000 from opioid restitution proceeds. These funds are the result of litigation with distributors, manufacturers, and pharmacies for their role in the opioid epidemic in Baltimore City. To date, the City has received \$668.5 million from this ongoing litigation. Abatement proceedings remain in process, the final determination will impact the final amount the City will receive.

In August 2024, Mayor Scott released an Executive Order outlining the playbook for how opioid restitution funds would be invested back in the community. These supplementals are seeking the appropriation needed for the upfront costs to establish the organizational structure and initial costs associated with meeting the recommendations of the Executive Order.

Future appropriations from this fund will be included as part of the annual Ordinance of Estimates and subject to review by the Board of Estimates and City Council.

See below for a summary of individual items funded through the proposed supplemental budget actions.

Health Department

Requested Supplemental Amount: \$2,500,000

This funding will be used to create the Bureau of Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction focused on opioid response along with planning and design costs for a new Westside Health Clinic. This funding is part of a \$20 million multi-year commitment outlined in the Executive Order.

Law Department

Requested Supplemental Amount: \$100,000

This funding will be used to create two additional Assistant Solicitor positions to assist with developing and overseeing grant agreements for non-profits receiving grants through the Opioid Restitution Fund.

Mayoralty

Requested Supplemental Amount: \$1,773,00

This funding will be used to create three positions within the Mayor's Office to coordinate the citywide response, stipends and support costs for the Restitution Advisory Board, community outreach costs, and start-up costs associated with establishing the trust fund for these dollars.

Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

Requested Supplemental Amount: \$10,270,000

This funding will be used to fund three new positions within the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs and provide partial funding the Chief Recovery Officer and Deputy Director. These positions will be responsible for coordinating with non-profits organizations receiving funding through the Opioid Restitution Fund. This funding also includes upfront payments for the non-profit organizations specifically named in settlement documents. Future year budgets will include the remaining balance of these grant awards.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above state above, the Department of Finance supports City Council bills 25-0007, 25-0008, 25-0009, 25-0010, 25-0011, and 25-0012.

c.c: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis