
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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CITY SOLICITOR
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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 26-0184 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore
City Sheriff's Office – \$100,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 26-0184 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Service 882 (Deputy Sheriff Enforcement), to provide funding for the establishment of the Neighborhood Services Unit to improve neighborhood safety and cohesion by addressing persistent public nuisances and environmental factors that contribute to crime. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment. The supplemental appropriation would fund the "Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) which will assist in launching the Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU)."

Council Bill 26-0184 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 that reads "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Council President Cohen
Ethan Hasiuk
Shamoyia Gardiner
Nina Themelis
Ty'lor Schnella
Aaron Degraffenreidt
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Ashlea Brown
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