

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0090R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers McCray, Ramos, Middleton
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2022
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Fire Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Fire Department –**
3 **Office of the Chief – Annual Review**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department come before
5 the City Council to initiate the process of annually reviewing the duties of the Office of the
6 Chief; requiring the review to include an evaluation of the Department’s efforts to meet
7 performance goals; requesting that the Chief, in consultation with the City Council, establish
8 goals and objectives for the upcoming year; and requesting that the Chief identify service
9 delivery gaps that need to be addressed.

10 **Recitals**

11 The duties of the Office of the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department are outlined in
12 the City Charter and in ordinances passed by the Mayor and City Council. The Office of the
13 Chief is responsible for supervising and directing the Fire Department. Within that authority, the
14 Office shall take all proper measures for the protection of property, preservation of life, and
15 observance of the laws of the State, ordinances of the City, and regulations governing fire and
16 emergency medical services.

17 In recent years, the Fire Department has been faced with an increased demand for emergency
18 medical services, staffing shortages, station closures, deteriorating facilities and fleet, and the
19 health and safety of the Department’s workforce.

20 In 2015, the Office of the Chief released a report outlining the tragic death of Lieutenant
21 James Bethea, who died in the line of duty. The report recommended the Department implement
22 safety reforms. The following year, the Department partnered with the Center for Public Safety
23 Excellence to bring together a number of external stakeholders, along with its members, to
24 develop a long-term strategic plan for the years 2016 through 2021. The strategic plan was used
25 to guide the Department as it pursued its goals of efficient service and professionalism.

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

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1 In the spirit of transparency and oversight, the Council is requesting that the Chief present:

- 2 (1) the yearly goals and initiatives that have been the Office’s focus since the Chief was
3 appointed;
- 4 (2) a status report on the health and safety reforms that were recommended and
5 implemented after the death of Lieutenant Bethea.;
- 6 (3) an update on the implementation process of the goals that were set in the 2016-2021
7 strategic plan; and
- 8 (4) a briefing on the Chief’s 2022-2023 goals and initiatives.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
10 Baltimore City Council requests that the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department come
11 before the City Council to begin the process of conducting annual performance evaluations of the
12 Office of the Chief, including a review of the prior year’s performance and the establishment of
13 goals and initiatives for the upcoming year.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chief
15 Administrative Officer, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Deputy Mayor of
16 Public Safety, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.