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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.*

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021  
5:00 PM**

**VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING**

**TO BE TELEVISED ON CHARM TV 25**

*Council Resolution #21-0056R*

**Informational Hearing - From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door**

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

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Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)**

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Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

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Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)**

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John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Erick Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*



## BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee:** Education, Workforce and Youth

**Council Resolution:** 21-0056R

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### Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Ramos, et al

**Introduced:** August 16, 2021

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose** of inviting representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

**Effective:** On the date it is enacted.

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### Agency Reports

Law Department	Favorable
Health Department	Favorable
Baltimore City Public School System	<i>None as of this writing</i>
Department of Transportation	<i>None as of this writing</i>
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success	<i>None as of this writing</i>
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement	<i>None as of this writing</i>

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### Analysis

#### Current Law

**Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Section 1-6**

**§ 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.**

It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plats, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.

*(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)*

## Background

Per the primary sponsor, “This Resolution came about on behalf of student constituents. Many students commute to school, some take multiple buses to school, some are sexually harassed. We must make sure our students get to school safe and on time. The hearing will give students the opportunity to talk about their experiences while getting to school.”<sup>1</sup>

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, pertinent representatives will come before the committee to discuss this issue.

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## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Code, Council Resolution 21-0056R and all agency reports received as of this writing.

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin  
Analysis Date: December 13, 2021

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

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<sup>1</sup> The Honorable Odette Ramos, Councilmember-14<sup>th</sup> District

Council Bill 21-0056R

Agency Report(s)

*See attached*

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

JAMES L. SHEA  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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December 10, 2021

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0056R – Informational Hearing - From Front Door to  
Schoolhouse Door

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0056R for form and legal sufficiency. The resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

In general, a City Council resolution is "an expression of opinion or mind concerning some particular item of business coming within the legislative body's official cognizance." *Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium Assoc.*, 545 A.2d 1296, 1303 (Md. 1988) (quoting *McQuillin Mun. Corp.* § 15:2 (3rd Ed.)). Council Bill 21-0056R is an appropriate resolution to discuss our children's commute to school.


Accordingly, the Law Department is prepared to approve Council Bill 21-0056R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

*Victor K. Tervala*

Victor K. Tervala  
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor  
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Matthew Stegman, Director of Fiscal and Legislative Services  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject/ Position:	21-0056R – Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door  <b>Favorable</b>		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

December 9, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0056R, entitled, “From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door.” This resolution invites representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children’s commute to school.”

Both safe transportation and access to quality education are considered key social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.”<sup>1</sup> By addressing the environment in which people live, learn, work, and play, we are able to address the “upstream” factors that contribute to a person’s health and well-being and to health disparities.<sup>2</sup> BCHD understands the importance of a safe travel environment in obtaining quality education, access to recreational opportunities, and preventing added trauma in the lives of our young residents.

BCHD urges a **favorable** report on Council Bill #21-0056R. While we support any opportunities to improve school performance, attendance in extracurricular activities, and safety of young people, BCHD currently does not have an active role in the commute of students on their way to and from school and we therefore defer to the agencies that play a more direct role.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, March 10). About Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Social Determinants of Health. Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 21-0056R**  
**(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Ramos, Middleton, Cohen, Porter, Burnett

Introduced and read first time: August 16, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Health Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Transportation, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department  
4 of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success  
5 and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

6 **Recitals**

7 In Baltimore City Public Schools, approximately 29,000 students take MTA public transit to  
8 school. Nearly three out of every four middle and high school students in our district rely on  
9 buses, light rail, and subways regularly. MTA service is designed primarily with adult commuters  
10 in mind, not the 18% of ridership who are children on their way to learn.

11 As such, our students face challenging obstacles on their way to and from school buildings.  
12 Due to school choice, many young people take lengthy rides to schools that are far from their  
13 neighborhoods, leading to increases in tardiness and absences which affect their education.  
14 Students often avoid taking part in after-school extracurricular activities and employment  
15 because of safety concerns on their evening trips home in the dark, with 32% of students saying  
16 they do not feel safe on their way to and from school. Young women commonly experience  
17 sexual harassment during their trips.

18 The City Council would like to determine the safety of our students on their commutes to  
19 school, the equatability of public transit for our students, and the impact of public transit on  
20 student attendance, academic outcomes, extracurricular activities, and employment.

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



**Council Bill 21-0056R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City  
2 Council requests representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health,  
3 Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success and Office of  
4 Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

5       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
6 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of Transportation, the Health Commissioner,  
7 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.