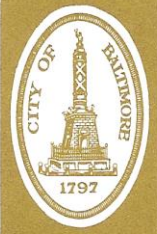


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Scott Davis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	<b>Office of the Mayor</b> 100 Holliday Street Baltimore, MD 21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution # 21-0069 - Investigative Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore		

DATE:

**TO** The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o  
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

November 15, 2021

**Position: Support**

The Mayor's Office is herein reporting on City Council Resolution # 21-0069 - Investigative Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore. This resolution requests members of the Mayor's Office, Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, and other stakeholders to update the City Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore City.

**Background**

The transgender community has been, and continues to be, one of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations within the LGBTQ community. Subpopulations within that community, such as the Black/BIPOC transgender community, experience even greater degrees of vulnerability. Efforts in recent years in some areas of the country to enact anti-LGBTQ legislation, as referenced in this resolution, have heightened the need for attention and action to ensure the transgender community is provided a safe environment and is able to access services and resources in an equitable fashion. Much of the discrimination experienced by the transgender community is rooted in the persistence of stigmas against the community and transphobia.

In order to ensure the well-being, visibility of, and access to resources of the transgender community, Mayor Scott is dedicated to creating opportunities to ensure they have a voice in local government. In June of this year, legislation to codify the Office of LGBTQ Affairs was signed by the Mayor alongside the bill's sponsor and advocates and members of the LGBTQ community. The legislation serves two primary functions, both of which create a more permanent and prominent role for LGBTQ Affairs within Baltimore City government. The first part of the legislation makes the Office of LGBTQ Affairs an office independent of the Mayor which ensures its existence across multiple administrations. The second part of the legislation codifies the LGBTQ Commission which formerly was created by Executive Order. This codification ensures that the voice of the LGBTQ community and ability to participate in local government is formalized and does not get lost or ignored across administrations.

The Scott Administration is currently hiring for the director's position in this new office of LGBTQ Affairs. The plan is to fill this position by the end of 2021. A key priority of the new director will be to address the issues raised in this hearing, ensuring action is taken to further improve the health and well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore.

**Conclusions**

Mayor Scott and his Administration are committed to ensuring all voices are heard within City government and is dedicated to ensure all of our neighbors feel safe. The Mayor's Office is supportive of this resolution and looks forward to attending the hearing and answering any additional questions the Committee may have.