



**SYNOPSIS**

**Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations**

**City Council Resolution: 22-0139R**

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**Investigative Hearing - Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Burnett, et al

**Introduced:** October 3, 2022

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the State’s Attorney, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Public School System Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland United States Attorney’s Office, the Maryland Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, The Hope Center (formerly known as Baltimore Child Abuse Center), BlueDOT, and other collaborators from the Baltimore Human Trafficking Collaborative who provide identified victims of human trafficking with emergency interventions and supportive services, to brief the City Council on the scope of the human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be implemented to bring these individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist survivors of human trafficking.

**Effective:** Upon enactment

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**AGENCY REPORTS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Police Department                           |  |
| State’s Attorney’s Office                   |  |
| Sheriff’s Office                            |  |
| Public School System                        |  |
| Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement |  |

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Health Department | Favorable |
| Fire Department   |           |
| City Solicitor    | Favorable |

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### **ANALYSIS**

The resolution invites government agencies, service providers, and other stakeholders to brief the City Council on the scope of the human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be implemented to bring these individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist survivors of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is the exploitation of an individual for financial gain through forced labor or commercial sex, and typically involves the threat or use of force, fraud, or coercion. Federal and Maryland law prohibit human trafficking, punishable by imprisonment, fines, or both. In 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 118 cases of human trafficking in Maryland, with 173 victims. In 2020, there were 135 cases identified in Maryland, with 253 victims. In both years, a large majority of cases involved sex trafficking (97 in 2021 and 98 in 2020).

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):**

- 18 U.S.C. §§ 1581—1597
- MD Code, Criminal Law, § 3-1102 and § 3-1202
- National Human Trafficking Hotline, Maryland, <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/maryland>
- Reporting Agencies
- Resolution 22-0139R

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Analysis Date: January 27, 2023

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