



Catherine Pugh
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Darryl De Sousa
Police Commissioner

March 16, 2018

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 17-0052R
Informational Hearing – Baltimore's Disaster Preparedness**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 17-0052R. This legislation is for the purpose of requesting City agencies to prepare for and respond to disasters in our City and appear before the City Council to discuss the current state of Baltimore's disaster preparedness and how lessons learned from recent disaster responses can be applied here at home to ensure the best possible response to any threats we may face.

The BPD supports this bill.

Any disaster, whether natural or manmade, requires a prompt and appropriate response to ensure the public's safety. Government workers, including the police, are often some of the first to respond to such situations and realize that the public looks to them for guidance. As such, the BPD recognizes the importance of being more than adequately prepared in cases of emergency. Working with our partner agencies, the BPD looks forward to the continued coordination and ever expanding best practices to ensure the City's readiness in the event of a disaster.

The BPD looks forward to working with the City Council on this important matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Gillis
Chief of Staff