



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

August 11, 2021

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

RE: City Council Bill #21-0040R
Informational Hearing – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0040R for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Housing and Community Development, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Sheriff for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City School Police, the Department of General Services, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss ways that the City can prevent crime through the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design model.

Thank you so much for allowing BPD to respond to this resolution. The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) model encourages a multi-disciplinary approach toward utilizing architecture, urban planning and facility management to reduce opportunities for residents and visitors to be victimized, deter criminal acts before they occur and to empower residents to exercise responsibility over shared public spaces to further discourage criminality and to develop a shared sense of community. The Department fully embraces the concept that all city agencies must coordinate resources and efforts to ensure that we are maximizing limited resources to prevent crime and that we all must pro-actively and strategically modify the physical environment to make communities unattractive places in which to engage in criminal activity.

To that end, the Department works very closely and intentionally with other City agencies to target high crime areas with the investment of resources, programming and other sustainable interventions. As one example, the BPD has been coordinating with the Department of Planning, the Department of Housing and the Department of Transportation to plan for a dead-end street to be connected to a nearby roadway. This is so that officers can

better patrol a neighborhood where, historically, criminal activity has been able to happen due to the fact that it is not easily accessed by officer patrols. Another example of a partnership with another city agency is when we work with the Department of Public Works to ensure the swift removal of bulk trash that has been placed in alleys to prevent officers from patrolling around open air drug markets and other high crime areas. Another issue BPD works very closely with other agencies on is lighting. Poor lighting can make an area attractive to would-be criminals. So, we work with the Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure that vegetation is cut back appropriately so that existing street lights are not compromised and that the light bulbs provide an adequate amount of lighting. Each of these are examples of the important collaboration and problem oriented policing strategies that are being done daily across city agencies.

BPD fully supports City Council Resolution 21-0040R and looks forward to a robust discussion on the many ways that Baltimore City government agencies are currently coordinating efforts to invest in environmental design changes that can help reduce crime. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Nina Themalis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff
Deputy Commissioner Sheree Briscoe
Colonel Richard Worley