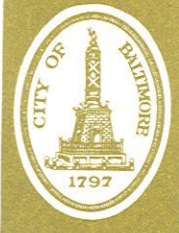


Andrew Kleine

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432 City Hall (396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #09-0142R- Informational Hearing-Fire Department- Rotating Company Closures

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE: October 6, 2009

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council Bill #09-0142R has been introduced for the purpose of requesting the Baltimore City Fire Department to report to the City Council on the effect of the newly adopted "rotating company closures" policy.

The FY2010 City Operating budget contains many challenges as Baltimore confronts a global recession, one in which the depth and duration of the economic downturn remain uncertain. The FY 2010 Adopted Budget closed a \$65 million shortfall in the General Fund, which is the primary source of funding for the Fire Department.

In order to meet its operating budget target, the Fire Department faced a choice: permanently close several fire companies and lay off employees or operate with the staff reporting each day to minimize overtime callbacks, resulting in daily rotating company closures. The Fire Department proposed a realistic and fiscally responsible budget that preserved department personnel through reducing the overtime budget by \$3.2 million, from \$6.6 million in the FY 2009 budget to \$3.4 million in FY 2010.

Since the adoption of the FY 2010 budget, due to weak local revenues and State cuts to local funding, the City has closed an additional \$60.2 million shortfall. Fire Department reductions include the layoff of some contract, civilian, and command staff positions and delaying apparatus purchases. Additional mid-year State aid cuts are expected and will put further pressure on agency budgets. We must also prepare ourselves for Fiscal 2011, which will likely be more difficult than Fiscal 2010 as revenues remain weak and spending requirements spike.

The Department of Finance will continue to take necessary steps to ensure the financial integrity of the City and to provide for its citizens and will take an active part in the hearing on this Resolution.

cc: Edward J. Gallagher
Angela Gibson

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Comments