

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
From: City Administrator Faith P. Leach
Subject: CAO Report | City Council Bill 21-0074 – Office of Emergency Management – Independent Agency
Date: March 20, 2023

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

March 16, 2023

Position: Not in Favor

The Office of the City Administrator is pleased to have the opportunity to review City Council Bill 21-0074 – Office of Emergency Management – Independent Agency. The City Administrator defers to the agency report provided by the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), the agency most directly impacted by this bill.

The proposed legislation repeals Article 1, Subtitle 18 {“Disaster Control and Civil Defense”} as obsolete; establishes an Office of Emergency Management (OEM) as an independent agency; defines certain terms; provides for the appointment of an Executive Director of the Office; sets forth certain duties of the Executive Director; and, provides for staffing, budgets and required plans.

The current structure of OEM housed within the BCFD provides necessary stability, and allows the Office to access the administrative and operational support that is needed to carry out the unit’s duties and responsibilities. To illustrate, the Fire Department provides fiscal/grant management, human resources, fleet, and logistical support, along with personnel from the Fire Department that work to supplement the eight-grant funded and two BCFD general funded positions that work on tasks such as emergency planning and preparedness. For your awareness, please see below:

Table with 2 columns: Grant Funded Positions, Classification. Rows include (1) Operations Officer IV, (2) Operations Officer I, (2) Grant Service Specialist III, (3) Grant Service Specialist II.

General Fund Positions	Classification
(1)	Liaison Officer
(1)	Operations Officer I

Due to the complex work that OEM performs and the success it has had operating in the current structure, the Administration believes that the agency is best positioned within the BCFD.

The Office of the City Administrator is **not in favor** of City Council Bill 21-0074 as it does not believe that it is advantageous at this time nor transforms the OEM for the better.