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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0021R – Informational Hearing- Building a Homegrown Public Safety Cadet Program		

DATE:

TO

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

April 16, 2021

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0021R, Informational Hearing-Building a Homegrown Public Safety Cadet Program, the purpose of which is to discuss the various programs for youth that the Baltimore City Fire Department and Baltimore Police Department, as well as recruitment initiatives with youth.

The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) both run a variety of youth engagement and recruitment programs. These programs have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but both agencies are working to maintain partnerships and continue outreach under the various health and social distancing restrictions.

BCFD runs two summer camp programs, Camp Spark and Youth Fire and Life Safety Summer Camp, which engage youth from ages 8 to 16 and teach a variety of fire safety and team-building skills, as well as introduce them to careers in fire and emergency medical services. BCFD also has a partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) and has established a career and technical education program for emergency medical technician and firefighter positions, which is in the process of being restructured, at four local high schools—Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Patterson High School, and Frederick Douglas High School. BCFD is also working to expand opportunities by engaging in the YouthWorks program and apply for participation in Apprenticeship Maryland with the State Department of Labor.

BPD also has several engagement and recruitment efforts that provide a pathway to becoming a Police Officer Trainee, which has a minimum age requirement of 20½ years old. BPD's Cadet program is for youth ages 18 to 20½, which enables youth to work within BPD and gain experience that can count towards sworn recruitment. There is also the Explorer Program for youth ages 14 to 20, which provides youth that might be interested in the field of law enforcement with training and practical experiences. BPD also partners with BCPS to attend career fairs to share information about these programs and also partners with the Urban Alliance and the Baltimore Youth Opportunity (YO!) Centers.

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to any fiscal inquiries.

cc: Henry Raymond
Natasha Mehu
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