
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

December 5, 2023

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 23-0459 – Supplemental General Fund Operating Appropriation – Fire
Department – \$18,900,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0459 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$18,900,000 to the Baltimore City Fire Department. The money is from excess revenue that had not been anticipated when balancing the budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The appropriation would go to pay for unanticipated expenses of the Fire Department.

The City Charter establishes the criteria for making supplementary appropriations. City Charter, Art. VI, § 8. Section 8(b)(2)(iii) of Article VI of the City Charter permits such a supplementary appropriation when there has been “a material change in circumstance or additional appropriations for new programs which could not reasonably be anticipated at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates” for the fiscal year. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and must be approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance, which must identify the source of the funds and may only encompass a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, §8 (c).

As the bill meets these Charter requirements, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary R. Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, Acting City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations

Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division

Jeff Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor

Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor

D'ereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor

Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor

Teresa Cummings, Assistant Solicitor