

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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August 7, 2019

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 19-0410 – The Baltimore City Trauma-Responsive Care Act

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0410 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill establishes the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, requires certain individuals to undergo formal training in trauma-informed care and perform other duties to ensure that best practices in trauma-informed care are being followed in the delivery of services by certain agencies, requires certain agencies to submit reports to the Task Force, requires the Task Force to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council regarding the reorientation of certain city services to focus on trauma-informed care, reconstitutes the current Office of Children, Youth and Families to be the Office of Children and Family Success and makes it a primary duty of that office to lead a citywide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of services.

Section 22-21 of the bill lists the "agencies" required to designate staff members to participate in formal training, collaborate with other agencies, serve as advisors and make recommendations to the agency to align that agency's policies to the initiative. CCB 19-0410 p. 6, line 7 – page 7, line 27. Two entities listed are not City agencies. First, The Parking Authority is not a City agency, and its employees are not City employees. See Md. Code Ann., Art. 41, § 14-304 (enabling Baltimore City to create a "body politic and corporate" known as the Parking Authority of Baltimore City); Baltimore City Code, Art. 31, § 13-6 ("The Authority is not an agency of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and its officers and employees are not agents or employees of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore."). The Enoch Pratt library is also not a City agency. See 77 Opinions of the City Solicitor 32, 35 (1985). Enoch Pratt was established in 1882 by a gift to the City and is run by a Board of Trustees. Therefore, the City, by ordinance, cannot compel either entity to send staff members to assist in the implementation of the initiative.

Subject to the above, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



Ashlea Brown
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Jeffrey Amoros, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor