


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Chichi Nyagah-Nash, Director 
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 200 N. Holliday Street, Rm 800
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0040R

CITY OF
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE:

August 9, 2021

TO The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400, 100 North Holliday Street

Position: Support

The Department of General Services (DGS) is in receipt of and reporting herein on City Council Bill 21-0040R: Informational Hearing - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Background

This bill requests participation from city agencies to discuss ways that the City can prevent crime through the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design model (CPTED).

Comments

DGS recognizes the importance and value in development of initiatives that incorporate CPTED principles, as there should be a great degree of alignment with broader safety strategies and the City's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan. As a steward of the city's vertical and mobile assets, DGS understands and supports efforts that other city agencies may incorporate within their planning and operations to align with these principles; we expect that in many cases, the best way for our agency to demonstrate the support is through exemplary services to customer agencies that allow those agencies to meet their respective missions.

Additionally, DGS will be incorporating into our Building Design Standards (currently a work in progress) design criteria that address lighting and other environmental design. In the interim, as we perform exterior building envelope improvements, these criteria will be incorporated, along with other safety elements. For example, we will be designing for the use of LED light fixtures, which in addition to being more sustainable and environmentally conscious also provide better options for illuminating with natural light that allows for better identification of colors. In areas where we may have a more direct impact on the built environment (such as through landscaping services or minor graffiti removal at DGS-operated facilities, or planning efforts for capital improvements to City buildings), we would look to guidance from steering agencies that help to inform planning practices, policy, or code requirements.

The Department of General Services supports City Council Bill 21-0040R and looks forward to forthcoming discussion and partnership that may help guide and improve safety outcomes throughout the City.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Director Chichi Nyagah-Nash at chichi.nyagah-nash@baltimorecity.gov or (410) 396-3704.