
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

JAMES L. SHEA
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September 1, 2022

Honorable President
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Resolution 22-0257– A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council concerning
— Police Department of Baltimore City — Police Districts — Redistricting

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed the Resolution of the Mayor and City Council 22-0257 for form and legal sufficiency. The Resolution approves the redistricting plan submitted by the Police Commissioner in accordance with PLL §16-55. Section 16-55 requires the Police Commissioner to prepare a redistricting plan adjusting the geographic boundaries and composition of each police district and reallocating personnel and resources, based on decennial census population and housing data of the United States Census Bureau, call volume trends, response times, and any other data deemed relevant by the Commissioner. See PLL§16-55(b)(1). The Resolution provides that the redistricting plan will take effect immediately upon approval of the Resolution, as required by PLL §16-55(c)(3).

The Baltimore City Police Department is currently a state agency. The law governing the Baltimore Police Department is set out in PLL Subtitle 16. As noted above, the requirement of the Police Commissioner to create a redistricting plan following the release of the decennial census data is set forth in PLL §16-55.

Section 16-55(c)(1) states that “the plan must be approved by resolution of the Mayor and City Council within 180 days from the presentation of the plan.” Resolution 22-0257 is properly referred to as a resolution throughout the text of the proposed legislation, with the exception of line 9 on page 2, which incorrectly refers to 22-0257 as an ordinance. Accordingly, line 9 on page 2 should be amended to read “Resolution.” The Resolution expressly states that the redistricting plan submitted by the Commissioner is approved, and the “police district boundary maps approved by this Resolution are adopted as the Baltimore City Police Districts and are incorporated in and made part of this Resolution as fully as if they were set forth and described in this Resolution.” Under the terms of PLL §16-55, a Resolution of the Mayor and City Council

is the appropriate vehicle by which to approve the proposed redistricting plan submitted by the Police Commissioner.

Accordingly, the Law Department approves Resolution 22-0257 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Michele Toth
Special Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Ebony Thompson, Deputy Solicitor
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