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| FROM | NAME & TITLE | Robert Cename, Budget Director <i>R. Cename</i> | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall | | |
| | SUBJECT | City Council Bill 21-0055R – Informational Hearing-Holding Gun Offenders Accountable | | |

DATE:

TO

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

October 22, 2021

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0055R, Informational Hearing-Holding Gun Offenders Accountable, the purpose of which is to hear from the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, Baltimore Police Department, and Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and discuss gun violence and the possible impact of establishing a dedicated gun court.

In 2020, the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) seized more than 2,500 guns associated with crimes. More than 80% of these guns came from outside of the City, with more than 60% coming from outside of Maryland. The City is working to address the inflow of illegal guns by establishing a Firearms Intelligence Unit in BPD that will investigate sources of illegal guns and work with the Everytown for Gun Safety program to create a real-time crime gun data portal.

Gun courts originated in Providence, Rhode Island and are designed as “problem solving courts”, similar to drug courts. Gun courts across the country operate in various ways depending on the specific concerns of the jurisdictions, but generally focus on either speeding up the criminal justice process for gun crimes or reducing recidivism and providing access to social services for offenders.

Establishing such a court in Baltimore would require the coordination of the State’s Attorney’s Office, Circuit Court, and Sheriff’s Office, which all receive a majority of their funding from the City. Any new program would require additional resources for all agencies.

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

cc: Henry Raymond
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