

*BaltAC*

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0018 – Study and Report – Towing Dispatch Services		

DATE:

TO

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

January 25, 2021

**Position: Does Not Oppose**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0018, Study and Report-Towing Dispatch Services, the purpose of which is to require that Baltimore City Information and Technology (BCIT) agency, in consultation with additional agencies, study and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the methods and systems of dispatching towing vehicles within Baltimore City.

**Background**

During the prior City Council Term, the Department of Finance evaluated towing dispatch services through an analysis of City Council Bill 19-0431, Towing-Licensing and Regulation, the purpose of which was to generally regulate Baltimore City towing services through the standardization and consolidation of towing services under one administrative board, establishing licensure of towing services in Baltimore City, and establishing certain standards of operation and conduct.

Towing services are currently regulated in the Baltimore City Code under Article 15. Licensing and Regulation, Subtitle 22. Towing Services – Trespass Towing, and Article 31. Transit and Traffic, Subtitle 22. Towing Services – Accident Towing. Currently, the Board of Licenses for Towing Services of Baltimore City oversees trespass towing services, which reviews license applications and establishes licensing fees and penalties, while the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City oversees accident towing services and issues licenses through a medallion system.

The proposed legislation would task BCIT to study and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the methods and systems of dispatching towing vehicles within Baltimore City, in consultation with the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore Fire Department, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works. The report must include at least one of the dispatch methods evaluated in the report include direct integration with the existing computer-aided dispatch system in the same manner that the Baltimore City Fire Department and the Department of Public Works currently use, an evaluation of the cost of the dispatch method that accounts for the necessary hardware and software required, and propose a reasonable means to share the costs between the City and licensed towing companies.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Department of Finance defers to the technical expertise of the named agencies on this legislation in their findings. At the conclusion of the study and report, budget requests for additional funds to

implement the recommendations of the study will need to be submitted and reviewed through the annual budget process.

**Conclusion**

City Council Bill 21-0018, Study and Report-Towing Dispatch Services, will require that Baltimore City Information and Technology agency, in consultation with the various towing stakeholder agencies, study and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the methods and systems of dispatching towing vehicles within Baltimore City. Any budget requests for additional funds to implement the results of the study will have to be submitted and reviewed through the annual budget process.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0018.**

cc: Henry Raymond  
Natasha Mehu  
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