


**F
R
O
M**

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name & Title | James W. Wallace, Fire Chief  |
| Agency Name & Address | Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street, Mezzanine |
| Subject | City Council Bill #23- 0168R – Informational Hearing – State of Maternal Health in Baltimore City |

CITY OF
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO: The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408

DATE: July 12, 2024

The proposed resolution asks representatives from the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD or the Department) and other agencies to appear before the City Council to discuss the current state of maternal health in Baltimore City.

BCFD is primarily an emergency response agency. In consultation with partners in both the public and private sector, we are looking at ways that we can expand the mission to encompass outcomes apart from simple transport to an area emergency department. However, the area of interface with maternal and child health is especially difficult since our response model to acute medical crises that dominates BCFD operations does not cleanly interface with initiatives such as this one.

There's no question that BCFD serves a vulnerable population and that we have an opportunity to facilitate necessary connections between at risk citizens and available resources. Given staffing concerns, we would like to explore the following ways that we can collaborate with other agencies on the following:

1. Regular interface with child fatality review to identify root causes linked to unfavorable patient outcomes
2. Coordination with Tele911 to link at risk pregnant callers with community resources and consultation with an emergency physician at the point of care. The second phase of the Tele911 program incorporates a social worker to further assist with care linkage
3. Coordination with future nurse triage line to identify Federally Qualified Health Care centers able to accommodate and support maternal health
4. Develop a mechanism through which FD population health/future CHW's can refer patients to community maternal health resources

Population health initiatives will positively impact EMS volume and most importantly our patients in need of care. The Baltimore City Fire Department has no objection to CC 23-0168R and looks forward to an informative discussion on the issue.