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**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
Mayor



**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**  
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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May 5, 2025

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0048 - Federal Fund Operating Appropriation – M-R  
Office of Employment Development – Service 795 (Workforce Services for  
Baltimore Residents) – \$1,375,655

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0048 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Federal Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,375,655 to M-R Office of Employment Development – Service 795 (Workforce Services for Baltimore Residents) to provide funding for case management, barrier removal, supportive services, and skills training to workers dislocated by the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, as well as offering occupational skills training to prepare workers to assist with disaster recovery efforts and, eventually, the reconstruction of the bridge. The money for this supplementary appropriation is excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter permits a supplementary appropriation for unexpected grants “from private or governmental sources that could not expected with reasonable certainty at the time of the formation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates” for the fiscal year. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c).

The bill language states that this appropriation represents “federal funds from the Maryland Department of Labor”. It is unclear whether the source of the funds is federal or state based on the language in the bill. The Board of Estimates agenda item for February 19, 2025, SB-24-13767 - FY25 Budget Supplemental for Grant Award - FY24 – FY26 Key Bridge Disaster Recovery Grant, states that the award is funding from the State. The Law Department is awaiting clarification from the Department of Finance on the source of the funding, since the bill language is unclear. If the

funding source is state funding, the bill title should be amended to accurately reflect the funding source.

The Law Department also recommends amending the bill language to reflect that the funding is an unanticipated grant under Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the Baltimore City Charter. The Recitals section could state, "The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a *grant* from the Maryland Department of Labor in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2025. That *grant* could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025 was formulated." Section 1 could state, "The source of revenue for this appropriation is the *grant* from the Maryland Department of Labor...".

If the bill language is amended to properly identifies the source of the funding, there are no legal impediments to this bill and the Law Department can approve it for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DLuckey", is positioned above the typed name.

Desiree Luckey  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Jeff Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor  
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor