
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 5, 2022

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 22-0091R – Informational Hearing – The Effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on First Responders

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0091R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Sheriff, the Chief of the Baltimore City School Police, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Chief of the Baltimore City Environmental Police, and the Director of the Department of Human Resources to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss how post-traumatic stress symptoms, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compassion fatigue, and burnout effect first responders, and to inform the Council on intervention programs that are currently in place to provide City employees with relief from trauma and burnout.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an informational hearing. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988).

Therefore, the Law Department approves this resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Hochstetler".

Jeffrey Hochstetler
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations

Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
D'Ereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Special Solicitor