
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 23, 2025

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

Re: City Council Bill 25-0099 – Supplementary Municipal Telephone Exchange Fund Operating Appropriation – Municipal Telephone Exchange (Service 133 – Telecommunications) – \$1,400,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0099 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Municipal Telephone Exchange Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,400,000 to the Municipal Telephone Exchange (Service 133 – Telecommunications), to provide funding for a series of one-time improvements to help upgrade the City's Call Center, support ongoing telework technology, increase wireless phone security, and support upgrades at the Courthouse and Pratt Library. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

The Municipal Telephone Exchange is overseen by the Office of the Comptroller. According to the Board of Estimates Memorandum regarding the requested appropriation, this supplementary appropriation would come from an internal service fund, the Telecommunications Fund, which is supported by payments from agencies that use the municipal telephone exchange service. Funds in the Telecommunications Fund are a mix of general funds and funds from other sources. An internal service fund is defined by the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research as a fund "established to budget for the financing of goods and/or services provided by certain City agencies to other City agencies or programs on a cost reimbursement basis." Fiscal Year 2026 Summary of the Adopted Budget, Glossary pg. 275. The fund had a balance of \$4,800,000 at the end of Fiscal Year 2024. Council Bill 25-0099 provides that "[t]he revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a Municipal Telephone Exchange fund balance 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 2026." The improvements identified in Council Bill 25-0099 are for the purpose of upgrading the municipal telephone exchange service.

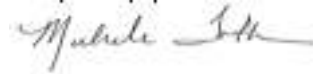
Council Bill 25-0099 cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(i) of Article VI of the City Charter which provides:

Revenues from any source other than the full rate property tax and other taxes imposed under the authority of Article II, in excess of or in addition to those relied on by the

Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget, may be made available for expenditure by the municipal agency responsible for the production of those revenues by a supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the City Council by the Board of Estimates, duly passed by the City Council by a majority vote of its members and approved by the Mayor.

In accordance with Section 8(b)(2)(i) the bill notes that “[t]he municipal agency responsible for the production of this additional revenue is the Office of the Comptroller.” 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). Council Bill 25-0099 satisfies these requirements. The Law Department approves this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michele Toth", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Ethan Hasiuk
Ty’lor Schnella
Shamoyia Gardiner
Hilary Ruley
Jeff Hochstetler
Ashlea Brown
Desiree Luckey
Ahleah Knapp