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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0085 – Telephone Access to 9-1-1 Emergency System		

DATE:

TO

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

July 8, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0085, Telephone Access to 9-1-1 Emergency System, the purpose of which is to require that certain multiple line telephone systems allow for the direct dialing of 9-1-1 and providing for certain fines.

Background

The Maryland General Assembly established “9-1-1” as the primary telephone number for persons seeking the emergency assistance of police, fire, or ambulance anywhere in Maryland in 1979. This measure will ensure that any person that installs or operates a multiple – line telephone system must allow for 9-1-1 to be dialed directly without requiring the user to dial any other additional numbers. Additionally, this legislation provides for the Baltimore City Fire Department to inspect the installation and operation of a multiple-line system and enforce compliance with this measure via a \$100 fine for a first offense and \$200 fine for subsequent offenses.

Fiscal Impact

It is estimated that, at this time, the proposed legislation does not have an operational impact since enforcement of this ordinance may be carried within existing resources. The number of violations subject to the proposed fines is unknown, but the Department of Finance estimates that there are about 71,000 multiple line telephones in the City and assuming that 5% of these lines will incur in first offenses, it is estimated that the City may generate roughly \$356,000 in revenues from these citations per year.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance defers to the technical expertise of the named agencies on this measure in their findings of the best practices to implement this legislation. We do not anticipate any implementation costs associated with this measure, and there may be a small increase in revenue from enforcement. Therefore, we do not oppose.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0085.

cc: Henry Raymond
Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis