


<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Niles R. Ford, Fire Chief <i>NRF</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street, Mezzanine		
	Subject	City Council Bill #22-0127R – Informational Hearing – 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline		

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

DATE: October 21, 2022

The proposed resolution calls on the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD or the Department), along with other agencies to brief the City Council on the operations of the new 988 suicide and crisis lifeline number.

In June of 2021, Baltimore City launched a behavioral health diversion program to transfer certain types of 911 calls that deal with suicidal ideation to mental health professionals through the Here 2 Help line. Successful diversion occurs when individuals in need are linked to the hotline and the clinical response team is able to close the incident without a response from Police or Fire/EMS.

The development of the 988 line is the natural progression of the diversion program; Here 2 Help will continue serve as staff for these types of calls. In addition to helping to resolve issues for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis, the program reduces utilization of 911 resources for Fire and EMS for non-criminal, non-violent emergency calls. To date, approximately 784 total incidents were transferred to the diversion program.

The Baltimore City Fire Department looks forward to a productive discussion on CC 22-0127R.

NF/kw