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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

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August 18, 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 22-0111R – Informational Hearing – Addressing Youth  
Violence in Baltimore City

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0111R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Police Commissioner, the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Chief Academic Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Deputy Commissioner of Youth Wellness & Community Health from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Chief of Police for the Baltimore City School Police, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of African-American Male Engagement, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation, and interested members of the Baltimore City Youth Commission to come before the City Council to discuss the increase in youth violence across the City and the risk factors that are driving these incidents.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may “exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City,” and may “pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City.” City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47).

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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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