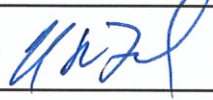



F R O M	Name & Title	Niles R. Ford, Fire Chief 	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street, Mezzanine		
	Subject	City Council Bill #22-0256 – Public Safety Apprenticeship Program Advisory Commission		

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

DATE: September 2, 2022

City Council Bill 22 – 0256 calls for the establishment of a Commission to provide oversight, advice, and recommendations to the Fire Chief and Police Commissioner in the internal policies and procedures of the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program (PSAP), as established by Ordinance 22 – 147 enacted on July 7, 2022.

The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD or the Department) is fully committed to creating a robust BCFD Apprenticeship Program. The Department has been working collaboratively with the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) to provide opportunities for young people to become Emergency Medical Services (EMS) certified. We have brought young people into the agency as Community Aides with the goal of providing a pathway to permanent employment. However, the Department numerous concerns with the bill as written. The PSAP, recently has been established by ordinance, but the various agencies involved are currently in the design phase of the program. Further collaboration and coordination with the administrative agencies of the city needs to take place before the program would be at the stage for oversight or advice.

Additionally, BCFD has concerns with the vagueness of the term “oversight” and the overall authority of the Commission to direct internal agency operations. The composition of the Commission also raises concerns that it is antithetical to the basic principles of the labor-management agreement and that it does not include any representation from the agencies tasked with implementing the program.

The Baltimore City Fire Department is opposed to City Council Bill 22 – 0256 as drafted, however we look forward to further discussions about how to successfully implement the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program.

NF/kw