



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

**Michael S. Harrison**  
Police Commissioner

September 21, 2022

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: City Council Resolution #22-0117R**  
**Informational Hearing: Baltimore Public Sanitation- Homeless Encampments**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Resolution #**22-0117R**, for the purpose of inviting representatives from the BPD and relevant city agencies to brief the City Council on potential strategies for mitigating waste left by homeless encampments, including a discussion regarding the procurement of a contracted service to clear hazardous waste from such encampments.

BPD is committed to utilizing the least intrusive, most effective methods of police intervention when responding to calls for service and crisis events involving our homeless population. Members have been trained to respect and preserve their dignity, civil rights, and to contribute to their overall health, safety, and welfare. The goal of BPD is only to engage in enforcement activities in these circumstances when it is absolutely necessary, connecting individuals to other agencies and resources when possible instead.

The Baltimore Police Department has no objection to this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We look forward to a robust discussion on this topic.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.  
Chief of Staff

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council  
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nina Themelis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR  
Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Council President  
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff  
Shannon Conway, Legislative Coordinator

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