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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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September 21, 2022

Honorable President  
Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 22-0118R – Investigational Hearing - Prostitution - Diversion and Treatment

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 22-0118R. The bill invites the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success to discuss current and proposed strategies to deter and treat prostitution in Baltimore City, including a review of diversion programs and services in use in other jurisdictions.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards. The Police Commissioner is the head of a state agency so he cannot be compelled to appear before the Council, but may do so voluntarily.

Council Bill 22-0118R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request the specified officials to attend to provide information on strategies to deter and treat prostitution in Baltimore City positions.

The Law Department approves Council Bill 22-0118R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth  
Special Solicitor

cc: Natasha Mehu  
Nikki Thompson  
Nina Themelis  
Sofia Gebrehiwot  
Elena DiPietro  
Hilary Ruley  
Ashlea Brown  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Dereka Bolden