



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

September 28, 2022

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

RE: City Council Bill #22-0255 Arson Offender Registration

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 22-0255 which seeks to require individuals convicted of arson or malicious burning to register with the Baltimore Police Department within 48 hours of their release from a correctional facility or the date the offender's sentence is imposed, if he/she receives a sentence that does not include imprisonment.

As introduced, the bill could create staffing burdens on the Department that would limit the overall effectiveness of the Arson Unit. After robust discussions with the sponsor, the following amendments have been agreed to that will enable the Department to monitor repeat offenders without creating an unnecessary burden on the Department:

- ✓ Only upon conviction of a second offense would an individual be required to register with BPD;
- ✓ Remove "Threat of Arson" and "Burning Trash Container" as qualifying offenses; and
- ✓ Require the offender to verify their registration in person on an annual basis as opposed to every 6 months and 20 days; and
- ✓ Add "or the Commissioner's designee" at the end of line 3 on page 5.

The Department appreciates the sponsor's leadership on this issue and willingness to work with the Department to create a piece of legislation that assists with our overall mission to provide for the public safety of all residents and visitors. BPD supports City Council Bill 22-0255 with the above discussed amendments. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this piece of legislation.

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 Themalis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR

c/o 242 West 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2908

Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff
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