

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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of School Commissioners

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City Council Bill 22-0138R **Informational Hearing – Coordination between Police Commissioner, School Police** **Chief, and Sheriff**

February 8, 2023

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) has reviewed City Council Resolution 22-0138R, which invites the Baltimore City Police Department Commissioner, Chief of Baltimore City Schools Police, and other law enforcement officials to explain to the City Council how the agencies and their officials coordinate planning and activities to enhance public safety for the citizens of Baltimore.

The school system agrees it is extremely important for key law enforcement agencies and their officials to work in coordination with one another to deliver high quality and effective services, and appreciates the Council's desire to stay informed of the tactics, strategies, and other efforts these agencies are using to enhance public safety.

To that end, in an effort to continuously improve their working relationship, Baltimore City School Police (BSP) and the Police Department of Baltimore City (BPD) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), most recently renewed in March 2020, to recommence the cooperation agreement between BPD and BSP.

Both parties agree that the vast majority of student misconduct is best addressed by educators and school administrators, rather than by law enforcement personnel and the court system, and through restorative practices and other classroom and in-school strategies that maintain a positive learning environment and afford students opportunities to learn from their mistakes, correct any harm that results from their behavior, and restore relationships that are disrupted by their behavior.

The MOU explicitly lays out the parameters of partnership between the two agencies, including that in the case of life-threatening situations, BPD Communications and BSP Communications shall notify one another, as soon as possible, of any active shooter, barricade situation, hostage situation or other life-threatening occurrences on City Schools properties. Again, in the spirit of information sharing, BSP will also provide daily 24-hour incident reports to BPD.

Both Parties have and will continue to work together to promote and maintain safe, inclusive, and positive learning environments, and to use de-escalation techniques and seek peaceful resolution of incidents involving City Schools students and other youth. City Schools and City Schools Police stand ready to work with the Baltimore City Council and other law enforcement agencies to continue examining how best to enhance public safety for students, families, and the citizens of Baltimore. We look forward to participating in further discussions.