

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0328 – Supplementary General Fund Appropriation-Office of Equity and Civil Rights -\$2,388,311		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

February 17, 2023

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0328, the purpose of which is to increase the Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund budget for the Office of Equity and Civil Rights by \$2,388,311 in support of the new Police Accountability Board (Service 849).

**Background**

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 required the formation of a Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee to handle the intake and adjudication of all complaints of police misconduct involving members of the public. Baltimore City Ordinance 22-146, signed into law on June 30, 2022, tasks the Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) with supporting the City’s Police Accountability Board to meet the requirements laid out in State and local law.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency spending based on the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplementary appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Department of Finance worked with OECR to develop an annual budget for the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee, totaling \$2,388,311. Since the requirements of these new structures were finalized after the Fiscal 2023 budget was finalized, OECR requires supplementary appropriation to carry out this mandate. This request will allow OECR to secure the necessary staffing, equipment, technology, and training resources to support implementation of the new police accountability structures. Finance is recommending funding for the full year to support one-time costs that may arise as OECR stands up these new structures. The supplementary appropriation is supported by projected surplus transfer tax revenue beyond what was anticipated in the original Fiscal 2023 budget.

**Conclusion**

This supplementary appropriation is required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Fiscal 2023 Ordinance of Estimates, and is necessary to implement the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee, as mandated by State and local law. This will be funded by projected surplus Transfer Tax revenues.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 23-0328.**

cc: Michael Moiseyev  
Nina Themelis