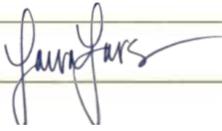


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	23-0445 Charter Amendment - Baltimore City Police Department		

DATE:

TO

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

November 29, 2023

Position: Does Not Oppose

Background

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) was established in 1853, but due to political riots and disputes, the State took over authority in 1860. Baltimore City is the only jurisdiction in Maryland that does not have direct authority over its police department; instead, the authority is split between the Mayor, the Police Commissioner, and the Maryland General Assembly. In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 786, Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021-Baltimore City-Control of the Police Department of Baltimore City, which established a process for transferring control of BPD from the State of Maryland to the City of Baltimore. In 2022, Baltimore City voters approved the first milestone on the path to local control when they approved Charter Amendment - Baltimore City Police Department - Local Control – Establishment. This charter amendment organized the Baltimore Police Department as one of the executive departments in Art. VII of the Charter.

This legislation is the next step in establishing the Baltimore Police Department as an executive department under the City charter. If approved by voters this charter amendment would establish the objectives, powers, and duties of BPD.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance does not anticipate a major fiscal impact for the City from this legislation. The proposed Charter language does not impact how BPD participates in the City’s budget process or how the Department is funded. This change also will not impact how BPD interacts with other elements of the Finance Department including procurement, payroll, and accounting.

Conclusion

This legislation will enable City voters to adopt or reject an amendment to the establishing the objectives, powers, and duties of the Baltimore City Police Department. Based on analysis this action is expected to have minimal fiscal impact for the City.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 23-0445.

cc: Nina Themelis
Michael Moiseyev