

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Cheryl A. Casciani
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Resolution 18-0070R

Dear Council President Young:

On February 26, 2018 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill (Resolution) concerning an Informational Hearing on Crisis Preparedness and Safety in Our Schools. Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) shares the concerns expressed in the Resolution, and we have taken the following actions to ensure emergency preparedness and safety in order to protect our schools, students and staff.

Each school develops a school safety plan in accordance with City Schools' Critical Response and School Emergency Management Guide and Site Based Emergency Safety Plan. Each school leader is responsible for supervising, monitoring and organizing the development of the school safety plan. Further, the Principal is responsible for arranging a faculty/staff meeting within one month of the beginning of the school year to review the school's plan and update staff on procedures.

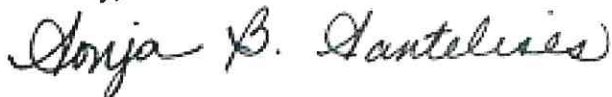
In addition, schools must conduct the following annual safety drills:

- Evacuation
- Shelter in Place
- Reverse Evacuation/Alert Status
- Lockdown
- Severe Weather/Safe Area
- Drop, Cover and Hold On

Random checks will be conducted by School Police to ensure that these drills are being held in compliance with City Schools' procedures. School Police are continuously evaluating the effectiveness of additional safety measures, as well as reevaluating existing procedures, to ensure that the district is providing the highest possible level of security for our schools.

In summary, City Schools takes its responsibility for emergency preparedness and safety with the utmost seriousness. We will be pleased to provide additional testimony on this important topic upon request.

Sincerely,



Sonja Brookins Santelises, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer