

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard C. “Jack” Young
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

Letter of Information
Baltimore City Council Bill 20-0569
Street Harassment Advisory Commission

October 20, 2020

As drafted, Council Bill 20-0569 proposes the creation of a Street Harassment Advisory Commission to encourage public awareness of street harassment and the importance of eliminating it through conducting public information campaigns about street harassment and resources available in the City for victims of street harassment. The Commission shall be tasked with identifying categories of individuals most at risk of street harassment and create model policies and training materials to be adopted by city agencies for preventing and responding to harassment – including model policies and training materials for employees who work directly with the public. The Commission may also discuss the potential need for a process by which victims and witnesses of street harassment can report instances of harassment to city agencies and, if needed, work with city agencies in implementing such a process.

The bill defines “street harassment” as disrespectful, offensive, or threatening statements, gestures, or other conduct that is directed at an individual in a high-risk location without the individual’s consent; and based on the individual’s actual or perceived race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or housing status.

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) notes that schools are indeed included in the bill’s definition of “high-risk locations” for street harassment. The proposed definition specifically notes “any school, library, or any other building primarily used for the instruction of students, including a day care center, nursery, elementary school, secondary school, college and university” as being a high-risk area.

Given our review, City Schools has no objections to the proposed Council Bill 20-0569.

For additional information, please contact City Schools Government Affairs:

Melissa Broome
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
MCBroome@bcps.k12.md.us
(443) 525-3038

Dawana Sterrette
Director of Legislative and Government Affairs
DSterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
(443) 250-0190