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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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May 25, 2021

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0028R – Investigative Hearing- Baltimore’s Plan for our  
Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness and Residing in Hotels during the  
Pandemic

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0028R for form and legal sufficiency. The resolution is for the purpose of inviting the Acting Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, the City Administrator, the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the advocacy groups Housing Our Neighbors and Homeless Persons Representation Project to brief and advise the City Council as to the overall outcomes for neighbors experiencing homelessness who were able to reside in the hotels; what is next for them; assistance for those experiencing homelessness in encampments during the crisis; and the availability of programs to access housing.

In general, a City Council resolution is “an expression of opinion or mind concerning some particular item of business coming within the legislative body’s official cognizance.” *Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium Assoc.*, 545 A.2d 1296, 1303 (Md. 1988) (quoting *McQuillin Mun. Corp.* § 15:2 (3rd Ed.)). Council Bill 21-0028R is an appropriate resolution to discuss the feasibility of enacting a small hauler incentive program.

Accordingly, the Law Department approves Council Bill 21-0028R for form and legal sufficiency as it is a valid method to brief and advise the City Council about matters related to persons experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

*Victor K. Tervala*

Victor K. Tervala  
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor  
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Matthew Stegman, Director of Fiscal and Legislative Services  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor  
Stephen Salisbury, Assistant Solicitor