
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

JAMES L. SHEA
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

August 3, 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 LO21-0012 - Baltimore City Fire Department - FMT/Firefighter
Pre-Employment Screening and Hiring Process

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill LO21-0012 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill requests the Fire Chief or designee to present information on the overall recruitment, pre-employment screening, and hiring process for EMT/Firefighter application cycle that began in the 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19. This oversight hearing is mandated in Article 9, section 1-9, Reporting Requirements of the Baltimore City Code.

Pursuant to City Code Article 9, § 1-9(d)(3), each year a committee of the City Council is required to hold a public hearing, during which the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee must present information regarding: (i) the overall pre-employment screening process for entry-level emergency medical services positions; (ii) the recruitment strategy for entry-level emergency medical services positions; (iii) the race, gender, and City residency data of the emergency medical services applicants; and (iv) any steps taken to improve equity in the pre-employment screening process and to reduce barriers to entry for entry-level emergency medical services positions.

Accordingly, in summoning the Fire Department to report to the City Council as required by law, the Law Department is prepared to approve Council Bill LO21-0012 for form and legal sufficiency.

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