

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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City Council Ordinance 21-0094 Public Safety Apprenticeship Program “Hometown Heroes Act”

October 13, 2021

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) supports Council Ordinance 21-0094, which seeks to establish a Public Safety Apprenticeship Program for Baltimore City, consisting of the Public Safety Explorers Post and the Public Safety Cadet Post. The goals and objectives of the program include exposing Baltimore City youth to public safety careers, as well as building better community relations efforts between the City’s public safety agencies, youth, and the community.

Given our current partnership with the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), City Schools especially appreciates the spirit of the proposed ordinance. At present, City Schools and BCFD have partnered to develop a unique and exciting program to develop a clear pathway for City Schools’ student into employment with BCFD. As part of the Apprenticeship Maryland Program, students from all Baltimore City public high schools will be given the opportunity to become paid youth apprentices within BCFD.

Beginning in the summer following students’ 10th grade year and ending in their senior year, students will receive at least 125 hours of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute classroom instruction from BCFD trainers as well as 450 hours of on-the-job training. Students already enrolled in City Schools firefighter and EMT programs at four schools will also benefit from the program as they receive additional hours to refine their skills and accumulate the required training hours to meet certification requirements.

Official approval from the Department of Labor is anticipated during the November Apprenticeship committee meeting.

City Schools is committed to working with the Mayor and Baltimore City Council as the program is established and goals are finalized. We appreciate the City Council’s attention to Council Ordinance 21-0094 and look forward to participating in further discussions.