
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON, CITY SOLICITOR
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

February 13, 2025

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

Re: City Council Bill 25-0018 – Emergency Scene – Unauthorized Persons Prohibited

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0018 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would add a subsection (b) to Section 1-2 of Article 9 of the City Code to allow the Fire Chief or the Chief's designee to identify the boundaries of any emergency scene with caution tape or other reasonable methods when responding to that emergency. It would prohibit anyone but those authorized to be present in that defined emergency scene area. It would also add a prohibition on loitering in an emergency scene area to Subtitle 25 of Article 19 of the City Code.

The City has broad powers to legislate in the interest of public health, safety and welfare and to exercise the common police power. City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47). Since this bill is within that broad authority, the Law Department can approve it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, City Solicitor
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Lucky, Assistant Solicitor