



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Alice Kennedy, Commissioner, Housing and Community Development
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	March 12th, 2025
SUBJECT	25-0018 Emergency Scene – Unauthorized Persons Prohibited

Position: Favorable with amendments

BILL SYNOPSIS

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0018 Emergency Scene – Unauthorized Persons Prohibited for the purpose of prohibiting the presence of an unauthorized person within the boundaries of an emergency scene; establishing certain penalties; defining certain terms; and generally relating to unauthorized persons within the boundaries of an emergency scene.

If enacted, City Council Bill 25-0018 would prohibit unauthorized persons within the boundaries of an emergency scene and establish certain penalties for the repeated disregard of those demarcations. If approved, this Bill will take effect on the 30th day following its enactment.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

DHCD supports this Bill's intent to provide emergency victims a greater degree of protection while those crises are still ongoing. DHCD also appreciates that this Bill specifically lists "personnel from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development" as among the authorized persons permitted to be present on the scene. This inclusion will ensure that DHCD's Office of the Ombudsman can continue its 24/7 availability to provide critical services and resources to City residents experiencing an emergency that will classify them as homeless. Furthermore, that provision will also ensure that DHCD staff can continue to work along the Fire and Police Departments for emergency building safety inspections and if called for, emergency demolitions.

FISCAL IMPACT

As drafted, this Bill would have minimal fiscal or administrative impact on DHCD.

AMENDMENTS

DHCD does not seek any amendments to this Bill at this time.

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