

City Council President Response

Case # 22-0049-I

NICK J. MOSBY
Council President



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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

October 4, 2022

Isabel M. Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General for Baltimore City
City Hall, Suite 635
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: OIG Report of Investigation Case #22-0049-I

Dear Inspector General Cumming,

Baltimore City Council President Nick J. Mosby's Office has received and reviewed the September 13, 2022 memo and related documentation pertaining to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report of Investigation Case #22-0049-I. The report reviewed complaints related to the Baltimore City Council Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 26, 2022. The report highlighted safety and security concerns for public meetings with large numbers of people in attendance among other issues.

I want to thank you for your thorough and diligent effort to detail the events leading up to that meeting, during that meeting, and following that meeting. The results of this investigation demonstrate the need for close coordination between the public safety agencies, Department of General Services, who manages City Hall, and the Baltimore City Council. In particular, this office supports the OIG recommendation for stronger communication and documentation concerning the ID system deficiencies and increasing controls for tracking identification of people entering City Hall for large events. The details in this report highlight the need for a formal Standard Operating Procedure for handling large crowds to allow for adequate planning and implementation of safety measures for City Hall staff, members of the public, and the elected officials.

My office is committed to conducting the public business for Baltimore City in the most welcoming, transparent, and safe environment possible. Towards that end, members of my staff began working with the Mayor's Office and the Department of General Services in the days following the April 26, 2022 Committee of the Whole hearing to address some of the issues this OIG report has identified. We have implemented weekly communication with them regarding Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, Board of Estimates Meetings, and highlighting those with the potential to draw a large crowd. While we have added those adjustments, it remains informal with room for improvement.

We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the aforementioned executive agencies to develop a Standard Operating Procedure to manage events when there are large crowds expected in City Hall.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond and participate in this investigation, and thank you for the work you do for Baltimore City. If you have any further questions, please reach out to General Counsel Aaron DeGraffenreidt (a.degraffenreidt@baltimorecity.gov) for any additional information you may need.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nick J. Mosby, President
Baltimore City Council