



HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 22-0098R

Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

Chaired by: Robert Stokes, Jr.

Hearing Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM

Time (Ending): 11:20 AM

Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting

Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Robert Stokes, Sr.
- John Bullock
- Antonio Glover
- James Torrence
- Sharon Green Middleton
- Zeke Cohen

Excused Absence:

Phylcia Porter

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Torrence		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Glover		
Final Vote:	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Christopher Shorter, City Administrator
 - Robert Cename, Finance Department
 - Jenny Morgan, Department of Recreation and Parks
 - Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
 - Kimberley Knox, Planning Department
 - K.C. Kelleher, Department of Real Estate
 - Marcia Collins, Department of Public Works
 - Stephanie Murdock, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Drew Vaught, Speaker
 - Dan Hymowitz, Speaker
 - Yvonne Moore-Jackson, Department of Public Works
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Burnett, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. He talked about the background of the Resolution and about some concerns regarding same; stating that he would like to see an improved in the overall operation(s) for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and public green spaces.
2. The chairman went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
3. The City Administrator stated one goal is to make sure agencies are working together and that he would like to talk about coordination between agencies today. Some other highlighted remarks and/or comments were:
 - Talked about processes that were put in action and/or place
 - This will be the first season for significant changes but probably will experience some kinks; is prepared to make improvements where needed
4. A PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "Grounds Maintenance Coordination and Quality Assurance" was presented. **A copy is on file.**
5. The committee/councilmembers asked questions, stated concerns, and asked for clarification for some issues. Some highlights from same were:
 - Comments/Remarks/Concerns
 - Grass cutting
 - Every year councilmembers received calls from constituents regarding grass cutting and every year it seems to get out of hand
 - We have to be more constituent-friendlier when addressing this issue
 - Concern: issues surrounding city owned vacant properties
 - We can't continue to have these type meetings over and over each year! We want results!
 - A coordinated approach is definitely needed!
 - **Request:** Being pro-active to getting grass cut faster
 - Pro-active mowing – is needed and is of concern
 - Is concerned about efficiency when it comes to mowing
 - Equity Issues – is of concern

- Need additional analyses for equity issues
 - There are equity issues when we are relying on community complaints
 - Wages for front-line sanitation workers
 - Comments regarding same
 - Concern – not being able to hire workers because of the wages offered
 - Vacant Lots – is of concern
 - Suggest we (the city) look to the State to help plan the maintenance of our vacant lots
 - After a 311 complaint is received regarding a vacant lot(s), how long after is the complaint addressed?
 - We need to look at the whole (bigger) picture to resolve this issue!
 - This issue is the city’s responsibility; not the city council!
 - All we want is to have grass cut; efficient maintenance
 - And still believe a large department for same is needed
- Questions
 - How are you addressing constituent concerns? **Answer: Per City Administrator, “We have armed our employees who takes these calls with a much better operation.”**
 - Why can’t city-owned properties be serviced/maintenance by schedule?
 - What steps are you taking to hire more staff to help? (Concerned about trash, overgrown grass/weeds, etc.)
 - What type of wages are the temps working for the City receiving?
 - 311 Requests
 - Concern – requests are being closed too soon
 - Is there a way to create a timeline for these requests? When the requests are opened and when they are closed?
 - Accurate timeline(s) are needed for 311 requests
 - Concern – confusion between agencies for who service/handle 311 requests
- Requests
 - By Councilmember Torrence
 - Sent a list of the 67 properties located in his district
 - Would like to receive monthly reports/updates
 - By Councilmember Glover
 - Provide the wages paid to temporary worker
 - By Councilmember Burnett
 - That the 311 workers have access to the mowing maps – Answer: Per City Administrator, “the new 311 system is a challenge but is moving forward. We will make a concerted effort to arm these workers with the tools needed.

6. Vote taken. Hearing concluded.

Further Study

Was further study requested

Yes No

If yes, describe. See "yellow highlight" in Major Discussion section above.

Committee Vote:

R. Stokes, Sr. **Yea**
J. Bullock **Yea**
Z. Cohen **Yea**
A. Glover **Yea**
S. Green Middleton..... **Yea**
P. Porter **Excused Absence**
J. Torrence **Yea**

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 11, 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 5-5-22

RESOLUTION #: 22-0098R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Space

MOTION BY: Torrence SECONDED BY: Glover

FAVORABLE

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

UNFAVORABLE

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Stokes, Sr., Robert - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bullock, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Zeke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glover, Antonio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Porter, Phylcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>excused</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrence, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TOTALS	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Robert Stokes, Sr. Robert Stokes

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: M.M.C.



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Resolution – Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces	Resolution #22-0098R
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

Testify



What is your position on this bill?

Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email				
			For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marcia	Collins	DPW - 309 Abel Wolman				
Janelle	Mummy	" "				
Humphrey	Awomobo	2315 Cresson Street				
Stephanie	Murdock	stephanie.murdock@baltimorecity.gov (DHCD)				
Wina	Themelis	MOGR				
Sophie	Gebuchiwat	MOGR				
Martin	French	Planning	✓	✓		✓

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Education Workforce and Youth

Thursday, May 5, 2022

10:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor

22-0098R

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Robert Stokes Sr., John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Antonio Glover, Sharon Green Middleton, and James Torrence

Excused 1 - Phylicia Porter

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

22-0098R

Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces

For the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the Comptroller, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces.

Sponsors: Kristerfer Burnett, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylicia Porter, John T. Bullock

A motion was made by member Torrence, seconded by member Glover, that Resolution 22-0098R be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Stokes Sr., Bullock, Cohen, Glover, Middleton, and Torrence

ADJOURNMENT