



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0080

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – Day Two – Budget Hearings

Baltimore Development Corporation

Time (Beginning): 9:00 AM
Time (Ending): 9:50 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Visit Baltimore/Convention Center

Time (Beginning): 10:15 AM
Time (Ending): 11:00 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Mayor’s Office of Minority and Women Owned Small Business Development

Time (Beginning): 11:10 AM
Time (Ending): 11:40 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Planning

Time (Beginning): 12:35 PM
Time (Ending): 1:55 PM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Planning/Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

Time (Beginning): 2:05 PM
Time (Ending): 2:15 PM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Department of Housing and Community Development

Time (Beginning): 2:35 PM
Time (Ending): 5:10 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 55

Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals

Time (Beginning): 6:05 PM
Time (Ending): 6:40 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Department of Transportation

Time (Beginning): 7:05 PM
Time (Ending): 9:40 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 55

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello
Robert Stokes, Sr.
Danielle McCray
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Kristerfer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:			
Seconded by:			
Final Vote:			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Colin Tarbert, Baltimore Development Corporation
- Kim Clark, Baltimore Development Corporation
- Al Hutchinson, Visit Baltimore
- Peggy Diadakis, Convention Center
- Paul Taylor, Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Small Business Development
- Chris Ryer, Planning
- Stephanie Smith, Planning

- Holly Freishtat, Planning
 - Lisa McNeilly, Planning
 - Alice Kennedy, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Eric Booker, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Jason Hessler, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Steve James, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Kathleen Byrnes, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
 - Robert Cennane, Department of Finance
 - Steve Sharkey, Department of Transportation
 - Tavon Braxton, Department of Transportation
 - Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
 - Kendall Abu-Hakim, Department of Transportation
 - Chris Shorter, Mayor's Office/City Administrator
 - Theo Ngongang, Department of Transportation
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Several agency heads and their staff came before the committee/council member for day two (2) of the budget hearings.
2. PowerPoint presentations were given by the agencies. **Copies of all presentations received are on file.**
3. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Baltimore Development Corporation - BDC**
 - **Economic Recovery**
 - BDC was asked to talk about some of their strategies used for economic recovery
 - Are there any indicators for job figures?
 - **Design for Districting Program**
 - Is any data available regarding job retention, job creation, and etc.?
 - Can any of the American Rescue funds be used for the program?
 - **Pimlico Area – Redevelopment**
 - The area is going through massive redevelopment but there are still many challenged neighborhoods there – is of concern
 - Talk about BDC's involvement in this redevelopment; to include the challenged neighborhoods
 - **Family Dollar/Dollar General Businesses**
 - There are some disrespectful businesses in our neighborhoods; talk about this issue.
 - A Dollar General is coming to Greenmount Avenue. No public notice was given and I would like to be involved. What is BDC's role in bringing businesses into the community and notifying the community?
 - **Made in Baltimore**
 - Can you talk about this initiative and how it is going?

- **Federal Funds**
 - **Request: Provide a list for organizations who received recovery funds; to include the recipients and the amount given.**

Visit Baltimore/Convention Center

- **City Neighborhoods versus Focusing on Tourism**
 - We need to focus more on neighborhoods
 - We want people to say this is a great place to live!
 - How can we get people to know Baltimore City is a great place to live!
- **Tourism/Conferences**
 - Talk about some of the upcoming conferences to be held in Baltimore
- **Comment:** Hope homeless people are not arbitrarily kicked out of the hotels when the economy picks up.

Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Small Business Development

- **Question:** Do you have anyone on your staff that is Spanish speaking?
- **Training**
 - Do you have any outcomes for successful businesses that received training from your office?
- **Office Location**
 - Your office is located near the Pimlico area; are you a part of the meetings held regarding redevelopment?
- **Technical Assistant**
 - Can you speak of some of your strategies used to help small businesses?
 - Procurement: What kind of strategies are you offering small businesses to “scale up” to becoming bigger procurers of contracts?
 - Comment: Would like to see more small businesses move to bigger businesses when possible
 - How are things going for minority and small businesses and what data do you used to back it up?
 - **Request: For the past five (5) years submit information to council for how small businesses are doing.**
- **Infrastructure:** What part does your office play in main streets, infrastructure, and etc.?

Planning

- **Disaster Plan** – Can you talk more about this plan?
- **Food Planning – Per Non-Pandemic**
 - What is the Department doing to ensure we do not have food deserts in the city?
 - Once the pandemic is over, are we going to have better access to food? What is the strategy?
 - Food deserts need to be addressed – is of concern
 - The evaluation matrix for needing a market within communities – is of concern
 - What kind of matrices are you using?
 - You may need to use other indicators; key matrices are needed
- **Baltimore City Food and Waste Strategy**
 - What are some of the ways you are working with local facilities pertaining to composting and/or food waste in the city?
 - How is the city diverting food waste?

- **Capital Improvement**
 - Equity – is of concern
 - What can the Council do to help make the capital improvement plans more equitable?
- **The Green Network Plan** – How do you track the progress of the plan?
- **The Inspire Program** – talk more about this program!
- **Solar/Sustainability**
 - Have we done a comprehensive study of our buildings and can some of them become solar buildings?
 - Stormwater and urban heat effect – have we thought about these problems and can we be more strategic?
 - Heat Islands – when will we get more trees planted in these communities and are your partnering with the Department of Recreation and Parks?
- **Plastic Bag Ban**
 - How will you do the outreach in communities after the ban? How will it happen?
 - Retailers who are already charging for bags – is of concern
- **Vacant Buildings**
 - Use of vacant buildings and vacant lots – is of concern
 - Are there other things we are thinking about for the use of these properties and/or locations?

Planning/Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

- **Solar Panels**
 - Do you get any requests for placing solar panels on historic buildings? **Answer: Yes**

Department of Housing and Community Development

- **Housing Code Enforcement**
 - How many inspectors do you have?
 - A lot of the agents don't work at night; is there a way staff can be leveraged to address this issue?
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Since agents can't be out at night, can they monitor the cameras at night?
 - Illegal dumping is a major concern across all districts; legislation was recently passed to increase fines for same
 - What are some of the improvements and efficiencies you are looking at for illegal dumping?
 - Your department definitely need more funding for this issue
 - Citations
 - Is a fifty (\$50) citation really effective? How long do you get to address what you were cited for before another citation is issued?
 - Does code enforcement always come out on day eleven (11) to re-inspect?
 - **Request: Provide a summary outlining the process for giving citations, the next level and the next level.**
- **Vacant Property**
 - Vacant properties – is of concern
 - Are there any new innovations plans for vacant buildings owned by the Mayor and City Council?

- More funds are needed for blight elimination
 - These properties need mowing and boarding up; what type of citations are given?
 - How much is each citation?
 - How much would it cost to provide follow-up on needed properties?
 - Concern: making sure every available measure is taken, implemented and/or followed-up; no property falling by the waste side!
 - **Weatherization Program**
 - How does this program assist landlords?
 - Is there a breakdown for how much weatherization is provided to tenants versus to the landlords? **Request: Please research and provide data**
 - **Community Block Grants**
 - How many grants were disbursed so far? **Request: Please research and provide data**
 - CDBG – Block Grants – the delay of awarding the grants; talk about this.
 - **Request: Provide a list of everyone who received CDBG funding during the past five years, by district**
 - **Homeownership**
 - From renting to homeownership – more funding is needed
 - **Mowing Services**
 - What is the possibility of placing this service in a “one stop shop?” We need to have a conversation about this!
 - **Light Program**
 - There is a massive waiting list for the light program; can you talk about the waiting list?
 - **Pandemic**
 - What strategies are in place as the city emerges from the pandemic?
 - **Family Dollar Businesses**
 - There are some disrespectful businesses in our neighborhoods; is unclean outside of business
 - Is there an update on these establishments?
 - **Permit Office**
 - Concern: Sometimes plans are wrong but are still approved; those plans should have never been approved and causes the work done to be redone! What are you doing to correct this?
 - **Affordable Housing**
 - Do you have data for how much each unit costs and for how many?
 - Vacant to Value Program
 - Do you have a map of where the rehabs are happening? **Request: Please research and provide data**
 - **Dumpsters**
 - Concern: Where dumpsters should be but are not for mix refuse! How are you addressing this issue?
- Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA)**
- **Staffing**
 - Concern: Staffing issues at BMZA
 - Understaffed – is of concern
 - What will it take to get things moving efficiently?
 - How many employees were in your office before the pandemic? **Answer: Five**

- **Backlog**
 - How many municipal appeals come before the Board other than zoning?
 - What does your backlog look like?
 - Hope meetings can be extended to help clear up some of the backlog
- **Ordinance/Legislation**
 - Where are you with the ordinance/legislation to make changes?
 - **Request: Make sure the Council is briefed on the Ordinance before it is introduced**
- Department of Transportation**
- **Conduit System**
 - The city's pricing for conduit system versus other jurisdictions; was an evaluation done on this issue? **Answer: Yes**
 - **Request: Keep the Council updated on this issue**
- **Operations**
 - In real time what operations were suspended due to COVID?
- **Traffic Calming/Traffic Lights**
 - Comments regarding traffic calming policy
 - Talk about the processes for traffic calming
 - Can the Fire Department's role in traffic calming (review) be move up instead of being toward the end of the process? **Request: Please keep us abreast of your conversations with the Fire Department**
 - What are some of your long term solutions for traffic calming improvements?
 - The coordination of traffic lights in some locations - is of concern
 - What is the Department doing to coordinate the traffic lights?
- **CDL Licenses**
 - Suggestion: That the Department partnership with the Baltimore City Community College on this issue
- **Buses**
 - Are you thinking about an eco-friendlier approach for our transportation?
 - Comment: Electric cars are the future!
- **Street Lights**
 - What is the status of changing the lights to LED's?
- **Student Transportation/Safety**
 - Talk about transportation for our students to and from school
 - Will DOT help students to be on time? Talk about this!
 - Pedestrian Safety/Complete Streets Overhaul
 - Can you talk about how you are prioritizing complete streets?
- **Circulators**
 - Concern – not having consistent stops
 - Have you thought about expanding the services to south Baltimore?
 - How are the Circulators funded?
 - Who is responsible for the maintenance of the Circulators?
- **Towing**
 - Comments about scoffing and towing laws
 - Concern: About the city's towing capacity
 - Concern: About contracting out towing services
- **Hiring/Staffing**
 - What are we going to do to hire more employees?
 - What is the status for hiring in the parking enforcement unit?

- We need to get people hired!
 - There are only four (4) public work inspectors for the entire city – is of concern; understaffed
 - **Street Cut Management**
 - We need better coordination with the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company; talk a little about this
 - **Slow Streets Program** – is this program coming back? And if so, when?
 - **Electric Car Charging Stations**
 - Can these stations be beneficial to the public? **Request: Provide a list of the stations**
 - **Pot Holes**
 - Have received complaints regarding pot and sink holes.
 - How do you know when complaints are researched and resolved?
 - Concern: Complaints being closed out before being resolved
 - **Abandon Vehicles**
 - Concern – So many abandon vehicles
 - Is there any data available for where these vehicles are going and/or are resurfacing?
 - Concern: Illegal car repairs and the sale of same
 - **Property Data Base**
 - Concern: Data have some errors such as incorrect zip codes; how do you update the data base?
 - **Mowing Services**
 - What are your thoughts on centralizing mowing for the city?
 - **Special Events Division**
 - Concern: The Division is grossly understaffed
 - What are your thoughts on what the Division could do if it was fully staffed?
 - **Harbor Connection Station at Rusty Scupper Restaurant**
 - What can we do to get in back up and running?
4. Hearing recess; to reconvene on Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. Yes, see "red" highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Committee Vote: - Hearing Recessed

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 15, 2021

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022	Bill #: 21-0080
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See hearing notes					

*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

Ways and Means

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

9:00 AM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 173 328 5008, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7761d77326b645f399fe80ab2bc18be5)
MTID=e7761d77326b645f399fe80ab2bc18be5

21-0080 - Agency Hearings - Schedule attached online
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

21-0080

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2022 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on Thursday, June 3, 2021 - DAY THREE

ADJOURNMENT