

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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HEARING NOTES

Bill: 23-0381

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

Committee: Ways and Means

Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed

Hearing Dates: Thursday, June 1, 2023

Budget Hearings – Day Three – June 1, 2023

Board of Liquor License Commissioners

Time (Beginning): 9:00 AM

Time (Ending): 9:30 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 5 virtually

Baltimore Convention Center

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM

Time (Ending): 10:20 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 10 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Parking Authority of Baltimore City

Time (Beginning): 10:30 AM

Time (Ending): 11:00 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 15 in-person
Approximately 5 virtually

Office of the Inspector General

Time (Beginning): 11:00 AM

Time (Ending): 11:40 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 35 in-person
Approximately 5 virtually



Department of Human Resources/Office of the Labor Commissioner

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM
Time (Ending): 2:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Department of Transportation

Time (Beginning): 2:00 PM
Time (Ending): 5:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 60 in-person
Approximately 15 virtually

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Time (Beginning): 6:00 PM
Time (Ending): 6:25 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 30 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Baltimore City Public Schools – See Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0383**Committee Members in Attendance:** Day Three

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

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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers – Day Three

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Douglas Paige, Liquor License Board
- Nicholas Blendy, Liquor License Board
- Matt Campbell, Convention Center
- Peter Little, Parking Authority of Baltimore City
- Isabelle Cumming, Office of the Inspector General

- Quinton Herbert, Department of Human Resources
 - Deborah Moore-Carter, Office of Labor Commissioner
 - Corrine Johnson, Department of Transportation
 - Heidi Daniel, Enoch Pratt Free Library
 - Lauren Larsen, Finance Department
 - Robert (Bob) Cennane, Finance Department
-

Major Issues Discussed

Board of Liquor License Commissioners

1. A representative from the Board of Liquor License gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). He also stated:
 - They are currently fully staffed; no vacancies
 - The maximum penalty went up from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for Baltimore City, which is comparable to other Maryland counties
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Several committee/council members commended the Board members for work performance
 - Fees/Licensing/Violations
 - Collection rates, talk about this
 - Would like to see all Inspectors trained!
 - Saturation of liquor stores in communities – is of concern
 - More education and outreach for community is needed
 - Requested by member Burnett: Page 339 – Service 850
 - Provide a spreadsheet depicting the class and geographic, to include:
 - Number of applications
 - Number issued, and
 - How many were denied in the past two (2) years
3. Hearing recessed.

Baltimore City Convention Center

1. A representative from the Convention Center gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Several committee/council members commended the staff for work performance
 - Capital needs of the Center, talk about this as well as about on-going capital needs
 - The Convention Center is the gateway to our city!
 - What are your plans to enhance same?
 - It is a gateway and not just a place to hang out!
3. Hearing recessed.

Parking Authority of Baltimore City

1. A representative for the Parking Authority gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

- The Cathedral Street garage – is it city-owned?
- Several committee/councilmember commended Mr. Little and his staff for their work performance; one stated, “As a model, you could help train other agencies and organizations.”
- Residential Reserved Parking Permits
 - What is the process for getting a permit?
 - What is the process for removing a permit; especially after someone dies?
- Surveys for difficulty finding parking
 - How often are they done?
 - Does data come “by neighborhood?”
- Concern – The complaints from older adults who have to renew permit annually for his/her disability
 - Can get to be challenging to them to renew year after year!
 - Is any consideration for a five (5) year renewal instead of an annual renewal? **Answer: We will take a look at same.**
 - Is there a way to make the renewal process easier?
- Concern: Break-ins at the machine where you pay for parking!
 - Can you explain where you have expanded license plate reader meters?
- CFG Arena deal – was disappointing!
 - Have the rates for the Arena parking lot(s) increased? **Answer: Will research and respond back**
- The private developers who required parking, talk about this and the process for same
- Are any new parking garages to be built? Any plans for same?
- **Requested by President Mosby: Provide a list of all garages and expenditures for same**

3. Hearing recessed.

Office of the Inspector General

1. The Inspector General gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). She also stated that her office for fully staffed; no vacancies.
2. Chairman Costello talked about the letter that was submitted to Council member from the Citizen Advisory Board which included two (2) enhancement requests to be placed back in the budget. The representative from the Finance Department stated, “it is too late in the budget process to address the recommended enhancements but is in support to discuss during the next budget cycle; fiscal year 2025.”
3. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - New Board Members
 - Can you provide a list of the members, to include: term to serve on Board? **Answer: Yes**
 - Can members be reappointed? **Answer: Yes**
 - Several comments regarding the new software for disclosure forms
 - **Requested by member Ramos: Can you report to the Council, at least every six (6) months, pertinent, need-to-know information?**

- The Public/Journalist/Lobbyists/Etc.
 - People need to know “what is happening behind the scene!” Also, where to report and/or get needed information.
 - What would it take to getting new software to make information more assessible to the public? Talk about this
- The number of complaints and getting reports out
 - This information use to be in the budget books but do not see the information this year!
 - I recommend this information be placed back in the budget books!
 - **Response: Yes, BBMR use to place the information in the books and will be happy to put it back**
- Did you ask for additional staff this year? **Answer: No**

4. Hearing recessed.

Department of Human Resources / Office of the Labor Commissioner

1. Two PowerPoint presentations were given; one by the Director of Human Resources and the other by the Labor Commissioner (*Copies are on file*). Some highlights from the Presentations were:
 - **Human Resources**
 - Transferring out two positions from the Department
 - Expanding the Skills Path Software so it is available to all employees
 - **Labor Commissioner**
 - Currently have two (2) vacancies in the Office
 - Goal is to conduct negotiations in a timely manner
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Hiring of local residents to work as crossing guards in their communities.
 - Turnover in departments particularly the Department of Transportation and the Department of Recreation and Parks.
 - SI 770 – for Certified Public Management Training.
 - Training and development programs.
 - Professional certification
 - Agencies with line items for development and training
 - Training with city programs (Skills Path)
 - Training outside of the city programs (conferences)
 - Employee recognition.
 - Studies of compensation
 - DPW water and wastewater has had a study recently conducted.
 - A large study for other city employee classifications is underway and should be completed by the end of summer 2023.
 - Retention of staff
 - The City is not competitive in terms of salary with a number of bargaining units.
 - The retention bonus of 10,000 has helped with the retention of CDL Drivers.
 - The City is close to the market rate for some CDL drivers but has an issue competing with the private sector.

- Working on evaluating positions and making sure that requirements are aligned with the needs of the positions.
- Policy for marijuana testing has been updated for non-safety positions.
- Council staff is included in the study.
- Telework Policy
 - A study is in the final phases.
 - Telework policy has done well in the 311-call center. Has resulted in fewer sick days, callouts, and increased productivity.
- Delay in hiring personnel.
- Hiring bi-lingual employees
- Employee mental health
- Requests:
 - A list of agencies with line items for learning and development; to include amounts
 - Provide all compensation studies and implementations for the past five (5) years
 - How long does a compensation study take including the cost for same

3. Hearing recessed.

Department of Transportation

1. The representative for Transportation gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

- Traffic Calming
 - There are some concerns here, talk about this and the processes associated with same
 - Traffic calming completed in the 10th district; what is the process for same?
 - Requested by member Torrence: Would like to see the traffic calming strategy for West Baltimore
- Resurfacing
 - There are some concerns here too
 - Repaving and restoration costs, talk about the following topics:
 - ✓ High costs
 - ✓ Operation in Leadership
 - ✓ Preparing for Infrastructure
 - ✓ Funds coming your way
 - Several streets in district 10 needs to be resurfaced!
 - Several streets in district 13 needs to be resurfaced too!
 - Street cuts – making sure restoration is completed the right way – is of concern
 - The resurfacing of concrete streets, what are we doing to address this issue without replacing those streets with asphalt?
 - Some equity concerns – Per member McCray; want her district to get the same as other districts

- Requested by member McCray: Provide the cost to resurface curb to curb for:
 - ✓ 400 block of Eden Street
 - ✓ 3800 Decker Lane
 - ✓ Belair Road to White Avenue
 - ✓ Nicholas Avenue, and etc.
 - Sidewalks
 - Where are we with repairs and who is in charge of same?
 - Concerns: Pedestrian safety, repairing pedestrian streets and walkways
 - Sidewalks or ramps: When BGE tears it up do the City have to pay for it? Answer: BGE have 21 days to address same
 - BGE said the City is responsible for same. Response: It depends on the work/repair done
 - Comments and concerns regarding repairs being in compliance with complete streets
 - Speed Bump Installments
 - Concern: bumps are being installed improperly
 - Any installed speed bump impedes bicycling
 - When can a new design for same be completed?
 - Requested by member Dorsey: When can I expect to get a bike friendly speed bump design? Please provide by July 31, 2023
 - Truck Traffic
 - Some of those trucks needs to be impounded!
 - Where in your budget is the funding to enforcement same?
 - ✓ Talk about the process for impoundment
 - Some trucks have been in the area for over a year – where in the budget is funding to enforce the removal of these vehicles?
 - Commercial vehicles parking in neighborhoods – is of concern
 - ✓ When can we hold them accountable?
 - Requested by member Dorsey: Provide a written narrative for the cost to staff the enforcement of commercial overnight parking
 - Outreach
 - What are your outreach efforts for how we recruit and bring new Americans into our workforce?
 - Comments regarding: Diversity in Americans and diversity in languages
 - We are missing huge opportunities to hire
 - Grass Cutting -is of concern
 - Equity issues – good service should be provided all over the city!
 - At Biddle and Broadway Streets a ramp is needed; some people can't cross the street!
 - There are pipes laying all over and needs to be removed – is of concern!
 - The Greenway Trail and Bike Ways Grants
 - Hope we aggressively push forward to get the trail completed!
 - ✓ Where are we with this project?
 - Appears to be in danger of losing these grants

- What is going on with these grants?
- What is your position for applying for more grants?
- Retaining Talent (employees) – is of concern
- Pedestrian and Street Signs
 - Still coming out of COVID and the city needs more stop signs, lights, and etc. – talk about this
 - We need a better response for these issues
 - Synchronizing / timing of traffic lights – is of concern
 - Replacement of street lights – concern: untimely responses to complaints and/or repairs
 - Street lights in the 4th district needs to be replaced with LED lights
 - Pedestrian lights that have not been replaced in over a year – is of concern
 - Requested by member Torrence: Lights are needed in the 2100 block of Park Avenue
 - Need to acquire more positions to keep up with demand
 - How many employees are in your office to handle same?
- The Seven Mile Lane
 - When will this be completed?
- Is excited about the increase in highway user funds!
- Distributing Information – is of concern
 - Distributing information in a timely manner when complaints, concerns and requests are received is crucial
 - Must give feedback (responses) timely!
 - To be publicly available when needed; to tell us what is happening!
- Quality Control
 - Contractors not doing their job – is of concern
- Dashboard – don't understand why it is not being used
- Special Events
 - More staff are needed
 - ✓ Talk about this
- Procedures/Policy/Systems
 - Coordination between agencies – what are you doing in this area? Talk about this
- Crossing Guards
 - Are you still in charge of the Crossing Guards? Answer: Yes
 - Is there any outreach for filling positions?
- Baltimore Gas & Electric
 - How much revenue does the City receive yearly from BGE? What is it?
 - Requested by member Ramos: Provide the amount of revenue collected yearly and a written response about how BGE intends to, in a timely manner, relate needed information to communities about work to be performed in their communities; to be submitted by the end of calendar year
 - How is BGE responsible to resurface curb to curb after repairing and/or cutting up the streets?
 -

- Repairs should be curb to curb and not anything less! Please relate this back to BGE
- Positions related to the change of duties that were given to BGE – talk about what happens to those positions
- Project – Northern Parkway to City Line – is of concern
 - This project has led to increased traffic in the 2nd district
 - How and/or what are your plans for when increased traffic spills over into other districts due to projects?
 - Per member McCray: Would like to meet to discuss the impact of the traffic on Belair Road
- Aging Infrastructure – is of concern
- Bike Lane(s) – in the Northern Parkway/Falls Road Community
 - Why would you build a bike lane so close to a bike trail?
 - Was the bike lane taken out of the plan?
 - Requested by members Schleifer and Middleton: Need a written response regarding this issue and a commitment that it will not involve a bike lane in our districts
- Requested by member Schleifer: Provide an overtime report by each Bureau within DOT to include the work done. Also submit a vacancy report by each Bureau
- Roadway Fatalities
 - What do you do to address the fatalities?
 - Requested by member Conway: Provide an assessment for how you address these fatalities
- Project – Wabash Avenue
 - It will take a lot of money to get the project right
 - There have been groups of opposition
 - It is a lot going on in the area: homes, businesses, trucks, light rail, traffic calming and etc. and it effects several districts
 - Talk about this
- ARPA Funding
 - How much did you receive? Answer: \$27 million; \$10 million for resurfacing and \$17 million for (ADA) American Disability Act complainant/upgrades
- Tow Yard
 - Private yards are open 24 hours / 7 days a week but not in the City!
 - Can you look into the possibility of having same?
- Employees' Facilities
 - Deferred maintenance for restrooms and locker rooms – talk about this
- Performance Measures
 - We need to go back and re-evaluate the performance measures
 - In the budget book your performance measures increased but staffing remained the same, why?
 - Your target for cable removal and inspection increased but why the increased with the now BGE deal?
- Vacancies

- Long term vacancies (vacant over 24 months) – what are those positions?
- What is the likelihood of any of those positions being filled within the year?
- Talk about the status for filling the positions
- Are you aware of any employees leaving the Department? **Answer: Yes, there will be some turnover**
- Concern: ability to attract applicants to fill positions
- **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide a written narrative of all your hiring initiatives**
- Apprenticeship Programs
 - The City was one of the first in the country to do so!
 - Program(s) have been a good model
 - ✓ Need to enhance same
 - ✓ It starts with creating your own pipelines; we need to pick up and do our own thing!
- Service 688 – Snow
 - Did not have any snow this year! What happen to the funding?

3. Hearing Recessed.

Enoch Pratt Free Library

1. The representative for the Library gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - The budget book shows a \$2.8 million reduction in state funding, why? **Answer: Is not actually a reduction; was an accounting change**
 - Library HVAC repairs – talk about this
 - Wolfe Street Library
 - There are some issues and/or concerns at this library
 - Talk about this: **Answers: Is studying options to request CIP Funding and is not sure of costs for a new building; need to find a site first.**

3. Hearing Recessed.

Baltimore City Public Schools – See Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0383

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see “red and yellow” highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 16, 2023

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 – Day Three Budget Hearings			Bill #: 23-0381	
Committee: Ways and Means			Chair: Eric T. Costello	
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023			Time: 9:00 AM	
Location: Council Chambers				
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			What is your position on this bill? Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?	
<u>ATTENDANCE ONLY</u>				
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	For	Against
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓
NICHOLAS	BLAND	LLB Liquor Bd		
Staci	Russell	LLB		
Messay	Beyen	LLB		
MATT	ACHHAMMER	LLB		
Doug	PAIGE	LLB		
Mac	Campbell	Conv. Ctr.		
J.C.	Changhan	Conv. Ctr.		

*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



Baltimore City Council

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<u>ATTENDANCE ONLY</u>				
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	For	Against
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓
Phil	Costa	Conv. Center		
Peter	Little	Parking Authority		
David	Rhodes	"		
Sandra	Davis	"		
Candace	Wue	"		
Isabelle	Cumming	Inspector General		
Quentin	Herbert	Human Resource		

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<u>ATTENDANCE ONLY</u>				
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	For	Against
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓
Deborah	Morne Carter	Labor Commissioner		
Corrine	Johnson	DOT		
Scott	Weaver	DOT		
Erin				
Kenny	LASH	PRATT		
Sherry	Christian	Baltimore City Public Schools		
Heidi	Daniel	EPF Library		

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City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Ways and Means

Thursday, June 1, 2023

9:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:

+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2336 682 4564, Password:

Public, Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?>

MTID=m22427e696f86ddd6cc32bc216f59cfc3

23-0381: Budget Hearings FY2024

See attached schedule

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

23-0381

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

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 2024 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on Friday, June 2, 2023.

DAY THREE (3) - BUDGET HEARINGS

Liquor License Commissioners, Convention Center, Parking Authority, Office of the Inspector General, Human Resources, Labor Commissioner, Transportation, Enoch Pratt Free Library, BCPS

ADJOURNMENT