



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Date: June 2, 2022

Budget Hearings – Day Three – June 2, 2022

Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC)

Time (Beginning): 9:30 AM
Time (Ending) 9:55 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Parking Authority of Baltimore City (PABC)

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending) 10:25 AM
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Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

Time (Beginning): 10:30 AM
Time (Ending) 11:25 AM
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Convention Center (CC)

Time (Beginning): 11:30 AM
Time (Ending) 12:00 NOON
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Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA)

Time (Beginning): 12:40 PM
Time (Ending) 2:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Visit Baltimore

Time (Beginning): 2:05 PM
Time (Ending) 2:20 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Time (Beginning): 2:30 PM
Time (Ending) 5:30 PM
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Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL)

Time (Beginning): 6:15 PM
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**Baltimore City Public School System – See Mayor and City Council Resolution 22-0237-
Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners**

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Committee Members in Attendance: Day Three

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

Excused Absence: Kristerfer Burnett

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
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Final vote taken.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

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- Douglas Paige, Board of Liquor License Commissioners
- Peter Little, Baltimore City Parking Authority

- Isabel Cumming, Office of the Inspector General
 - Peggy Daidakis, Convention Center
 - Diane Sawyer, Baltimore Office of Promotions and the Arts
 - Al Hutchinson, Visit Baltimore
 - Loretta Johnson, Department of Transportation
 - Heidi Daniels, Enoch Pratt Free Library
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Major Issues Discussed

June 2, 2022 – Day Three– Budget Hearings

1. Nine (9) representatives came before the committee/councilmembers to talk about his/her fiscal year 2023 budget proposal. **Copies of all PowerPoint Presentations are on file**
2. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. And, if applicable went over the responses to letters of information sent to them. Some highlights of same were:

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The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:

- **Website – New Cloud Software**
 - Have you thought about making it more accessible and/or efficient?
- **Violation Fines Collected**
 - The decrease in the number of fines collected, do you think this will change and/or improve?
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 - There were a lot of businesses who loss their licenses during the pandemic. Talk about this.
 - What is the status of the Class C licenses?
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- **Virtual Permit Parking**
 - How is this going?
- **Level of Services**
 - How do you feel about the level of services provided by the Department of Transportation?
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: DOT is scheduled to come in today at 2:00 PM – Can you have an employee from PABC listen to the hearing?**
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 - Residents are happy with this!
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- **Disability Parking Permits**
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- **Financial Disclosure System**
 - The system needs a lot of work and/or improvement
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 - What do you mean by non-clerical?
 - Those who are appointed to Boards, Commission and those employed in Quasi-City Agencies
 - Who is filing? Who is not filing?
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 - Breakdown what the \$300,000 additional request for funding will be used for?
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 - Were the matrixes placed in the budget book incorrect? **Answer: Per Bob Cename, yes, they were incorrect and are now corrected online**
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- **Role of the Advisory Board**
 - Comments regarding the role of the Board
 - Laws of the Board
 - Is the letter sent to the BOE posted on your website?
 - Some questions regarding the interpretation of the laws
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IV. Convention Center

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 - Is concerned about the long-term maintenance of the Center; want to make sure it is safe and can remain open. Talk about this. Per Ms. Daidakis, the Center's infrastructure is in bad shape. Some projects are in the works, but it is not enough.
 - How much do you think you need to get back to where you need to be? Answer: Approximately \$22 million. Per Bob Cename, we need additional debt service to address this concern. Requested by Chairman Costello to Mr. Cename, Can you circle back around to me sometime around the end of June 2022 regarding same.
 - **Percentage of the Hotel Tax Revenue allocated to the Convention Center** – talk about this
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The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

- **Requests**
 - Requested by Councilmember Torrence: Provide a list of staff not retained and provide a copy of the current bylaws for BOPA. Also include an accounting of the funds that were for Artscape
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 - Were any staff laid off? Answer: Yes
 - Have any of BOPA senior staff made a public statement that BOPA is not a city agency? Answer: Do not know of any.
 - Beyond the accounting sheet submitted, does BOPA have other operating funds? Answer: Majority of operating funds comes from the City of Baltimore
 - What percentage of funding comes from the city? Answer: Forty percent
 - What is your fundraising approach? Do your development team reach out to businesses in the city?
 - Are you considering different locations for festivals?
 - Who in the City has BOPA discussed capital investments for Artscape? Answer: Have not been involved in capital investments; not sure who was involved in the past.
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- **Comments**
 - Focusing on downtown over other districts! We are looking for opportunities to work throughout the city.
 - BOPA must improve communication strategies and/or efforts
 - BOPA Board does not reflect the art community
- **Artscape**
 - Have you talked with UB and others about Artscape? **Answer: Yes, within the last month**
 - What input did you received from others regarding the location of Artscape?
 - Did you discuss the location with the Mayor and others? **Answer: Yes**
 - Have you determined where 2023 Artscape will be held? **Answer: No**

VI. Visit Baltimore

The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:

- **Comments**
 - You are doing better marketing for the entire city but believe there are some missed opportunities
 - The redevelopment of the Baltimore Arena will make city more attractive for events
- **Requests**
 - Requested by Member Ramos: Please send copies of future pamphlets to all council members
- **Questions**
 - Do you rotate the different businesses highlighted in your pamphlets? **Answer: Yes**

VII. Department of Transportation

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Responses from the Letter Sent**
 - The committee/councilmembers went over each response received with the agency representative
 - Impound Yard – Pulaski Highway
 - Concerned about the conditions of the yard
 - Concerned about the workspace...the construction trailer
 - Who is in charge?
 - When did the request go in for the trailer?
 - Suggestion: To rent a tent to facilitate customers picking up towed vehicles
 - Operations and Hours of Operation
 - What are the hours of operation?
 - Concerned that a customer must make an appointment to pick up the towed vehicle
 - Do you have to make an appointment? **Answer: Yes**
 - This is not an acceptable response; the process needs to change
 - We need a plan for how we are going to fix this!
 - The yard needs to be open immediately....it is taking too long!

- Drivers need to be able to pick up their vehicles without an appointment
- What is the short-term plan? **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide this plan by Monday, June 6, 2022**
- **Crossing Guards Shortage**
 - Where are you with this issue?
 - How many vacancies are there? **Answer: 18**
- Charter Schools need crossing guards too!
- **Curbside Resurfacing**
 - Comments regarding street cuts and full crosswalks
 - BGE is a major violator of policy
- **Illegal Signs**
 - Illegal signs posted throughout the city – Suggestion: using youth workers to take them down; it is a beautification concern – Talk about this
- **Highway User Funds**
 - How are you using these funds?
 - Cleaning our streets and resurfacing are so important!
 - More coordination is needed
 - ADA Compliance issues
 - Need some interagency commitment and follow-up
- **Traffic Calming**
 - How does your budget address the lack of traffic engineers?
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide a plan and timeline for the status of all traffic calming requests**
- **Timely responses from your department - is of concern**
 - What are you doing to becoming more responsive?
- **Towing Caps**
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: To ensure that all Towers (Vendors) know the law and/or policy retaining to the maximum towing rate (towing cap)**
- **Complete Street Stat (Planners)**
 - Who is the point person?
 - Who is responsible for Middle staff?
 - Responsiveness issues – is of concern
- **Chop Shops** – what is the law regarding same? Talk about this
- **Equity**
 - Disparities when responding to different communities – talk about this
 - Expressed the importance of looking through an equity lens and following best practices
- 311 Backlog Requests – What are you doing in this area? Talk about this
- **Repaving Roads/Streets**
 - What are you doing to ensure contractors are doing their job as mandated and/or as needed? Is there any follow-up for the quality of work performed?
 - When BG&E does street cuts (patch work) follow-up is needed as well – this is of concern. Talk about this
- **City Bridges**
 - A lot of our bridges are in disrepair – What is the strategic plans for same?
- **American Disability Act (ADA) Compliance**
 - Talk about this. What are the plans? Are there any federal funds available?
- **Parklets** – What are your plans? Are there any plans for public comment participation?
- **Car Parties**

- Do you have a partnership with law enforcement to address this issue?
- Requested by Member Cohen: Within two (2) weeks provide a plan on how to address this issue
- **ARPA Funding**
 - How much and/or many requests did you submit for funding? Answer: \$74.3 million requested
 - When were your applications for funding submitted? Answer: July 2021
 - How much funding was DOT awarded? Answer: None to date
 - Requested by Member Schleifer: Provide a copy of all your ARPA funding requests
- **Complete Streets**
 - Does this year's budget give you the resources needed for next year's projects?
 - Tech Projects - were any issued for this year?
 - Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide all current plans on the orange list for Tech Projects
- **Signal Optimization** – Talk about this
- **Permit Processing Unit** – Special Events
 - How many employees are in this unit? Answer: Five in total; 3 filled and 2 vacancies
 - What is the status for filling the vacancies?
- **Street Light Repairs**
 - Is the right system in place to address repairs by BG&E and for identifying who is responsible for what?

VIII. Enoch Pratt Free Library

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Comments**
 - Thank you for the many partnerships you have in communities
 - Comments regarding the new library coming to the Park Heights Area of city
 - Baltimore City have the best public libraires in America and serves as a model!
 - The library provides many services! It is also a part of our public safety net!
 - What is the possibility of using your services during off hours to partnership with the colleges and universities?
 - What is the possibility for expanding field trips to the library?
 - Is a happy user of the library; especially the digital aspects.
 - **Penn North Branch** – comments about the branch
 - Overdose crisis – What are you doing in this area?
 - **Competition**
 - Being competitive with other jurisdictions to fill and retain employees – what would it take to attract and retain talent?
 - **No Library in the 9th District**
 - Is looking to do the “pop-ups” approach. Can you talk about this, and the cost associated with same?
 - What is the cost of a new library?
 - When do you plan to move forward with your satellite “pop-up” project?
 - **Wi-Fi Sessions**
 - Per the budget book, the number of Wi-Fi sessions used decreased. Why?
 - Requested by Member Ramos: Provide data regarding Wi-Fi usage
 - Comments regarding the policy for women who breast-feed in libraries

○ **Clifton Library Branch**

▪ This library is truly needed in the community and want it to stay there but it needs some work and/or some improvements. Talk about this and about what you are doing as far as improvements

▪ How do you tie into municipal broadband?

▪ Access to Devices – have it increased or decreased?

○ Do you have any programs for seniors and/or older adults? Talk about this.

○ Have you applied for ARPA funds? **Answer: Yes**

IX. **Baltimore City Public Schools** – See **hearing notes** for Mayor and City Council Resolution 22-0237 – Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

2. Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on June 3, 2022.

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, 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



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 - ADA Compliance issues
 - Need some interagency commitment and follow-up
- **Traffic Calming**
 - How does your budget address the lack of traffic engineers?
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide a plan and timeline for the status of all traffic calming requests**
- **Timely responses from your department - is of concern**
 - What are you doing to becoming more responsive?
- **Towing Caps**
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: To ensure that all Towers (Vendors) know the law and/or policy retaining to the maximum towing rate (towing cap)**
- **Complete Street Stat (Planners)**
 - Who is the point person?
 - Who is responsible for Middle staff?
 - Responsiveness issues – is of concern
- **Chop Shops** – what is the law regarding same? Talk about this
- **Equity**
 - Disparities when responding to different communities – talk about this
 - Expressed the importance of looking through an equity lens and following best practices
- 311 Backlog Requests – What are you doing in this area? Talk about this
- **Repaving Roads/Streets**
 - What are you doing to ensure contractors are doing their job as mandated and/or as needed? Is there any follow-up for the quality of work performed?
 - When BG&E does street cuts (patch work) follow-up is needed as well – this is of concern. Talk about this
- **City Bridges**
 - A lot of our bridges are in disrepair – What is the strategic plans for same?
- **American Disability Act (ADA) Compliance**
 - Talk about this. What are the plans? Are there any federal funds available?
- **Parklets** – What are your plans? Are there any plans for public comment participation?
- **Car Parties**

- Do you have a partnership with law enforcement to address this issue?
- Requested by Member Cohen: Within two (2) weeks provide a plan on how to address this issue
- **ARPA Funding**
 - How much and/or many requests did you submit for funding? Answer: \$74.3 million requested
 - When were your applications for funding submitted? Answer: July 2021
 - How much funding was DOT awarded? Answer: None to date
 - Requested by Member Schleifer: Provide a copy of all your ARPA funding requests
- **Complete Streets**
 - Does this year's budget give you the resources needed for next year's projects?
 - Tech Projects - were any issued for this year?
 - Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide all current plans on the orange list for Tech Projects
- **Signal Optimization** – Talk about this
- **Permit Processing Unit** – Special Events
 - How many employees are in this unit? Answer: Five in total; 3 filled and 2 vacancies
 - What is the status for filling the vacancies?
- **Street Light Repairs**
 - Is the right system in place to address repairs by BG&E and for identifying who is responsible for what?

VIII. Enoch Pratt Free Library

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Comments**
 - Thank you for the many partnerships you have in communities
 - Comments regarding the new library coming to the Park Heights Area of city
 - Baltimore City have the best public libraires in America and serves as a model!
 - The library provides many services! It is also a part of our public safety net!
 - What is the possibility of using your services during off hours to partnership with the colleges and universities?
 - What is the possibility for expanding field trips to the library?
 - Is a happy user of the library; especially the digital aspects.
 - **Penn North Branch** – comments about the branch
 - Overdose crisis – What are you doing in this area?
 - **Competition**
 - Being competitive with other jurisdictions to fill and retain employees – what would it take to attract and retain talent?
 - **No Library in the 9th District**
 - Is looking to do the “pop-ups” approach. Can you talk about this, and the cost associated with same?
 - What is the cost of a new library?
 - When do you plan to move forward with your satellite “pop-up” project?
 - **Wi-Fi Sessions**
 - Per the budget book, the number of Wi-Fi sessions used decreased. Why?
 - Requested by Member Ramos: Provide data regarding Wi-Fi usage
 - Comments regarding the policy for women who breast-feed in libraries

- **Clifton Library Branch**
 - This library is truly needed in the community and want it to stay there but it needs some work and/or some improvements. Talk about this and about what you are doing as far as improvements
 - How do you tie into municipal broadband?
 - Access to Devices – have it increased or decreased?
 - Do you have any programs for seniors and/or older adults? Talk about this.
 - Have you applied for ARPA funds? **Answer: Yes**
- IX. **Baltimore City Public Schools** – See **hearing notes** for Mayor and City Council Resolution 22-0237 – Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023
2. Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on June 3, 2022.
-

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, 2022

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, 2023 –
Day Three – BUDGET HEARINGS **Bill #:** 22-0235

Committee: Ways and Means **Chair:** Eric T. Costello

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022 **Time:** 9:00 AM

Location: Council Chambers

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Douglas	Paige	BLLC	✓				
Nicholas	Blondy	BLLC					
Messay	Beyene	BLLC	✓				
Yolanda	Camp	BBMR					
Peter	Little	PAFC					
David	Rhodes	" "					
Sandra	Downs	" "					

*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



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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manubeth	Sanchez	OIG manubeth.sanchez@baltimorecity.gov					
Peppy	Dardakes	Balto Conv. Ctr	✓				
Jeffrey	Hochstetler	OIG					
Yvonne	Brooks	OIG					
Jal'kishin Jason	Chughani	Conv. Ctr.					
Christine	Pietze	BMA					
Josh	Wilson	MORP					

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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Donna	Drew Sawyer	BOPA CEO					
Monica	WHITE	DOT MONICA.WHITE@BALTIMORECITY.GOV					
KENDALL	ABU-HAKIM	520 FALLSWAY DOT Kendall.abu-Hakim@Baltimorecity.gov					
William	Haynes	44 N. Calvert Street DOT					
Damon	Taylor SR	414 N. Calvert DOT					
Valerie	LaCour	DOT					
THEO	NGONGANG	DOT					

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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scott	Weaver	DOT					
Corren	Johnson	DOT					
Liam	Davis	DOT					
Toby	Goodwin	DOT					
Laetitia	Griffin	DOT					
FRANK	MURPHY	DOT					
GRAHAM	YOUNG	DOT					

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Nick	Fontanez	417 E. Fayette - DOT Nick.Fontaneze@al					
Cal	Hutchinson	Visit Balto					
Tavon	Braxton	DOT					
Darceel	Graham	EPFL					
Victoria	Raabe	EPFL					
Hudi	Daniel	EPFL					
Hordon	Krabbe	EPFL					

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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 2, 2022

9:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

22-0235: Budget Hearings: Day 3: Agency Group 2 CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

- Present** 5 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.
- Excused** 1 - Kristerfer Burnett
- Absent** 1 - Danielle N. McCray

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

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 2023 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed; to reconvene on Friday, June 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT