



Office of Council Services

Larry E. Greene, Director

Public Hearing Documents

Release Date;
January 28, 2025

COMMITTEE: Rules and Legislative Oversight

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2025

TIME 4:30 PM

HEARING LOCATION: Chambers

BILLS TO BE HEARD:

EA25-0001 – Veronica McBeth – Director – Department of Transportation

EA25-0002 – Jon Laria – Chair – Planning Commission.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ATTACHED ARE DOCUMENTS FOR
THE UPCOMING COMMITTEE HEARING.**

COMMITTEE STAFF: Richard Krummerich

TELEPHONE: 410-396-1266

EMAIL: richard.krummerich@baltimorecity.gov



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL Legislative Investigations Committee

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Legislative Investigations Committee is to ensure open, accessible and accountable government. The Committee will hold prompt and thorough hearings on all Executive Nominations. Additionally, the Committee will oversee enforcement of Ethics Rules and will monitor and review Rules of the City Council.

The Honorable Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair

PUBLIC HEARING

**Thursday, January 29, 2025
4:30 PM**

Council Chamber

**EA25-0001 – Veronica McBeth – Director – Department of
Transportation**

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Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)

Veronica Perry McBeth

Nominee for Appointment as Director of Transportation



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City Hall
Room 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

MAYOR'S REQUEST TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONFIRMATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICER

Pursuant to Article IV, §§6(a) and (b) of the Baltimore City Charter 1996 Edition, Mayor Brandon M. Scott hereby requests the City Council of Baltimore City to confirm the appointment of **Veronia Perry McBeth** serve as a municipal officer on the **Department of Transportation**. In support of this request, information concerning the mayoral appointee is provided below and in the attached resume.

The information set forth in both the document and the attached resume have been distributed to authorized persons for use in the City Council confirmation process.

Name: **Veronia Perry McBeth**

Appointed to: **Department of Transportation – Director**

Succeeds: **Corren Johnson**

Term Expiration Date: **December 5, 2028**

Previous Terms Served (if none, write N/A): **N/A**

Party Affiliation: **Democrat**

Specific Position Requirements: **The Director must have substantial administrative experience in transportation or in the delivery of related public service.**

Council District: **6**

Current Occupation: **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy at USDOT**

Current Employer: **U.S. Department of Transportation**

Employer's Address: **1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, DC 20590**

Other Relevant Employment: **See attached resume.**

Undergraduate Institution: **University of Pittsburg (Grad. 2002)**

Graduate Institution: **University of Maryland School of Law (Master of Science in Law) (Grad. 2018)**

Civic and Professional Affiliations: **See attached resume.**

Signature: 

Distribution:

Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair, Legislative Investigations Committee
Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Shamoyia Gardiner, Legislative Director, Office of the Council President
Ethan Hasiuk, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of the Council President



BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor
100 Holliday Street, Suite 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

January 8, 2025

Ms. Veronica Perry McBeth
2319 Monticello Road
Baltimore, MD 21216

Dear Ms. McBeth,

Please accept this letter as formal notice that I have nominated you to serve as the Director of Transportation.

You will be contacted by the Office of City Council President Zeke Cohen with notification of the date and time at which you are to appear before the City Council for your confirmation hearing.

Please direct all inquiries concerning this process to Ty'lor Schnella, Legislative Liaison. He can be reached via telephone at 443.469.1872, or email Tylor.schnella@baltimorecity.gov

Your service as a Director of Transportation has my full confidence and support. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the City of Baltimore.

In Service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

cc: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
The Honorable Zeke Cohen, City Council President
The Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair, Legislative Investigations Committee
Ty'lor Schnella, City Council Affairs, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

VERONICA PERRY McBETH

(202) 246-8428 / veronica.mcbeth@umaryland.edu / [LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

2319 Monticello Road / Baltimore, MD 21216

PROFILE

A passionate, results-driven, detail-oriented, and accomplished transportation and policy expert with over 20 years of combined experience working with government and private sector leaders, including a Presidential Appointment at USDOT, 7 years working with Members of Congress, the State of Maryland, a national transportation engineering and planning consulting firm, and 4 years working with Baltimore City government. Recognized for the ability to direct challenging and complicated transportation problems, assessing public policy implications, developing equitable community engagement practices, and implementing successful and forward-thinking transportation solutions in both private and public sector arenas.

- Project Management
- Public Policy & Administration
- Budget & Appropriations
- Executive & Financial Leadership
- Personnel Management, Mentoring, & Development
- Strategic Planning & Implementation
- Public Speaking & Presentations
- DEI Engagement Practices
- Research & Analysis
- Grants Proposal & Management
- Event Planning & Management
- Public Relations
- Marketing Communications
- Community Engagement
- Legislative Policies & Procedures
- Strategic Communications
- Program/Operational Analysis
- Government Relations
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
- Advanced knowledge of Spanish
- Collaborative & Visionary Team Leader
- GIS (Basic Operations & Review)
- Microsoft Office Suite

University of Maryland – Carey School of Law, College Park, MD

Aug 2016 – May 2018

Master of Science in Law – Environmental Law

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Sept 1998 – May 2002

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Certificate of Latin American Studies – concentration on Latin American Governments

United States Supreme Court, Washington, DC

Oct 2002 – May 2003

Marshal's Aide Appointment

- Reviewed official Court argument transcripts and assisted the Chief Justice and Associate Justices with a variety of administrative needs; aided in the facilitation of Court oral arguments and Justices' conference sessions.
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Awards and Professional Membership

- Women's Transportation Seminar, International (WTS Baltimore Chapter – Immediate Past President)
2016 and 2017 Innovative Transportation Solutions Award – Bike Share (Baltimore Chapter and International);
2018 President's Award (Baltimore)
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO Baltimore Chapter)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

WORK EXPERIENCE & HIGHLIGHTS

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC

Sep 2023 to Present

Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Transportation Policy – Responsible for providing expert level advice and support for day-to-day operations of the organization and for coordination of recommendations affecting the policy and program issues requiring final decisions by the Assistant Secretary and then the Secretary. Initiate actions to assure quick response of subordinate functions, including modifying existing priority allocations to meet action requirements. Work directly to support the Secretary's and Administration's priorities as they relate to transportation policy initiatives and coordinating multi-modal initiatives and processes. Additionally, my portfolio includes the review of proposed DOT rulemakings, legislation, testimony, and reports to Congress. I am supported by a staff of career subject matter experts (SMEs). As a Deputy Assistant Secretary, I provide policy guidance to the Secretary, Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary. In my role, exercising management oversight over Offices of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and the work with the other surface transportation Operating Administrations on intermodal work and involvement in cross-cutting Departmental projects is a critical function. This includes oversight of key policy priorities as well as interaction at the Administrator and Deputy Administrator levels within the Operating Administrations and represent the Secretary at interagency and White House policy processes as needed.

- Proven subject matter expert in various forms of transportation and in transportation policy as it relates to various agencies and internal offices, including: FTA, MARAD, PHMSA, GLS, FHWA, FRA, DOCR, OSDBU.
- Focus on continued execution of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) through the execution of DOT and Administration priorities that include but are not limited to participating in the drafting, review and award of grants from the Office of the Secretary and Office Administrations.
- Participate in long-range planning and conceptualization of programs and objectives. Initiate complex actions required to implement and manage approved program plans leading to the development of Departmental policy recommendations and positions for DOT and Operating Administrations.
- Represent the Assistant Secretary in meetings with senior-level Department and Operating Administration officials and with representatives of the White House, Congress, foreign governments and other Federal agencies. Participate and/or represent the Assistant Secretary in public discussions and activities including speeches, interviews, meetings, conferences and academic and professional society functions.
- Contribute to the management and oversight of personnel, activities and operations of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.
- Participate in preparation of the Department's legislative program and the systematic definition of its policy objectives, programs and plans. Provide the overall coordination and supervision to various offices performing the detailed work required to develop such policies, programs and plans.
- Identify problem areas in the domestic transportation field and provide day-to-day direction and supervision of the staff work necessary to provide the solutions to such problems within the purview of the Department's mission.
- Started the coordination process for an MOU and interagency agreement (IAA) between FTA and the Build America Bureau (BAB) for Transit Oriented Development efforts. This committee for the MOU-IAA will work to conduct the following functions with TOD applications: member application review/selection/notification, subcommittee selections, connections with the FTA and BAB, long-term coordination for applicants including onboarding, project approval prep (year-round), and consultant contract management.
- Oversight for consultant contracts that supplement important project work that is incorporated with Operating Administration's and the Secretary's Policy office.
- DAS representative for the Senior Review Team (SRT) for the Office of the Secretary of Policy (OST-P) for grants development, review and awards for the following federal programs: RAISE, RURAL, MEGA, INFRA, SS4A,

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (NOFO development, review and selection process), and Thriving Communities (NOFO development, review and selection process).

- Lead Equity, Justice 40, Wealth Creation, Workforce/Job Creation integration with BIL (i.e., policy development/review; discretionary grants; project delivery); supporting the Assistant Secretary and Under Secretary for policy meetings: BIL executive policy council; OST policy board and senior review teams.
 - o Oversee drafting and submission of 2023 and 2024 Equity Action Plan to the Democratic Policy Committee (DPC) and White House
 - o Completion of the EJ Phase Two Scorecard for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ)
 - o Execute policy priorities such as: Title VI Rulemaking; Equity Action Plan; Planning Rule; EJ Policy Statement/Strategic Plan; Meaningful Public Involvement
 - o Support build-out of technical assistance grants from BAB
 - o Co-Lead/formalize development of Tribal Affair Governance and Technical Assistance
- Manage stakeholder engagement activities with external transportation stakeholders and agency partnerships
- Provide relevant policy briefings to the Assistant Secretary and other leaders in the Office of the Secretary.
- Oversee the successful quarterly engagements of Equity Action Council and the Equity Stakeholder Training Summit to continue ongoing internal and external stakeholder learning opportunities.

Department of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC

March 2023 to Sep 2023

Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (detailee) – Responsible for Civil Rights, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Title VI, Wealth Creation, Departmental initiatives, such as the Equity Action Plan, gender justice, Justice40, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, equal employment opportunity, in direct collaboration with the Executive Director and Office of the Secretary. Conducting special projects and assignments as needed by changing priorities and Administration policies to improve existing and new Civil Rights programs and mission of USDOT and work closely to support the Secretary's and Administration's priorities as they relate to transit. Additionally, I coordinate the Department of Civil Rights (DOCR) work with the other surface transportation Operating Administrations and advise the Executive Director on intermodal work and involvement in cross-cutting Departmental projects.

- Focus on continued execution of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) through the execution of DOCR and Administration priorities that include but are not limited to participating in the drafting, review and award of grants from the Office of the Secretary.
- Departmental lead for the Equity Management Team in charge of coordinating meetings with career and political staff, overseeing the Equity Council, DOCR strategy and task tracking, including: EAP (Title VI and DBE), Gender Justice, HBCUs, and DEIA.
- Started the FACA for the Advisory Committee for Transportation Equity which includes: member application review/selection/notification, subcommittee selections, connections with the OGC, sending member packages for member onboarding, committee launch and meeting prep (year-round), and consultant contract management.
- Oversight for consultant contracts that supplement important project work that is incorporated with Operating Administration's and the Secretary's Policy office.
- DOCR representative for the Senior Review Team (SRT) for the Office of the Secretary of Policy (OST-P) for grants development, review and awards for the following federal programs: RAISE, RURAL, MEGA, INFRA, SS4A, Reconnecting Communities (NOFO development, review and selection process), and Thriving Communities (NOFO development, review and selection process).
- Assist with Civil Rights integration with BIL (i.e., discretionary grants; project delivery); supporting Executive Director for policy meetings: BIL executive policy council; OST policy board and senior review teams.
 - o Lead/formalize development of civil rights lens for reviews (in coordination with GH, Sandra + S32)
 - o Develop civil rights framework for project delivery (BIL PD center of excellence)
 - o Support build-out of civil rights technical assistance strategy with consultant assistance
- Manage stakeholder engagement activities for DOCR in correlation with activities for the Secretary.
- Provide relevant civil rights briefings to the Department and the Office of the Secretary.

- Oversee the successful completion of the Civil Rights Training Summit to continue ongoing stakeholder learning opportunities.
- Expand and create room for HBCU technical assistance and programming.

Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC

June 2022 to Sep 2023

Senior Advisor to the Administrator – *Responsible for key cross-cutting FTA initiatives, such as equity, climate and sustainability, Justice40, infrastructure initiatives, transit-oriented development and homelessness, in close collaboration with the FTA Administrator. Conducting special projects and assignments as needed by changing priorities and Administration policies to improve the programs and mission of FTA and works closely with the Administrator to support the Secretary's and Administration's priorities as they relate to transit. Additionally, I coordinate FTA's work with the other surface transportation Operating Administrations and advise the Administrator on FTA's intermodal work and involvement in cross-cutting Departmental projects.*

- Focus on continued execution of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) through the execution of FTA and Administration priorities that include but are not limited to participating in the drafting, review and award of grants from the Office of the Secretary.
- Assists the Administrator by advising on the formulation of highly complex and sensitive strategic plans, policies, operations, and initiatives at FTA. Establishing Administrative Strategic plans and policy recommendations for grant regulations, budgetary spending, internal programmatic development.
- Meeting with Agency senior leadership to review and approve the FY23 and FY24 budget for the FTA which are in excess of \$17B annually
- Evaluates and analyzes highly complex and sensitive programs and policies and recommends proposals. Participates and leads in the development of recommendations, plans of action, and alternatives for consideration by the Administrator and Departmental leadership.
- FTA representative for the Senior Review Team (SRT) for the Office of the Secretary of Policy (OST-P) for grants development, review and awards for the following federal programs: RAISE, RURAL, MEGA, INFRA, SS4A, Reconnecting Communities (NOFO development, review and selection process), and Thriving Communities (NOFO development, review and selection process).
- Serves as an advisor to the Administrator on major administrative and policy issues related to short-term and long-term policy initiatives such as the Justice40 Initiative and HBCU Initiative established by the Biden-Harris Administration.
- Coordinates and advises across Operating Administrations on the development and implementation of policy initiatives that include: TOD and Equity/Homelessness with Housing and Urban Development; Coordinated Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) with Health and Human Services/Centers for Medicare/Medicaid; and Equity Engagement for Asian American & Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders for listening session against hate crimes on transit.
- Research best practices for application to agency programs or operations. Develops plans, procedures, and methodology to apply best practices to specific programs: DEIA Programs/Strategic Planning, DBE Staffing/Strategic Planning, and Update CCAM Strategic Plan .
- Advises on the impact that policies have on resources and staffing standards in support of the overall programs and mission of the agency.
- **Key Contributions**
 - o Re-established strong relationships with internal modal counterparts and external stakeholders to engage for equity guidance, technical assistance and outreach to grantees
 - o Overseeing the pursuit of multi-million dollar on-call transportation planning contract
 - o Develop management solutions, provide strategic and expert advice for FTA and the Department of Transportation projects.

- Represent the Administrator on a national stage as a keynote speaker, panelist, in meetings, conferences, and strategic planning sessions.
- Expand agency presence and engagement with nationally recognized organizations such as WTS, APTA, AASHTO, and COMTO.

Kittelson & Associates, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Feb 2018 – June 2022

Associate Planner – Responsible for providing expert transportation planning direction for various levels of government, business, and anchor institutions; leading local and national business pursuits through networking, data driven approaches, marketing, and project management

- Manage active transportation pursuits and projects for public and private sector entities.
- Lead teams of consultants for transportation projects with multi-agency participation.
- Manage quality assurance and quality control protocol of pedestrian and bicycle guidebooks for large scale state government, local government, and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO).
- Support state and local government clients with implementation of statewide/metropolitan/rural transit planning.
- Key team member for large civil architectural/engineering firms' project pursuits in Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- Identify business opportunities to grow local and national firm presence.
- Successfully pursued and won contracts for Baltimore City, District of Columbia, State of North Carolina, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland Medical Center, Maryland DOT, Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Collegetown Network with earnings of over \$4.5 million.
- Coordinated project work with local MPOs that connected regional transportation issues in Baltimore City and the surrounding counties.
- Present technical papers as an expert in Environmental Justice and NEPA at state and international conferences.
- Deliver expert advice on transportation equity and environmental justice impacts via projects and national speaking engagements.
- Provide environmental assessment and GIS map review for various state government engineering and planning projects.
- Participation in NCHRP studies and research
- Technical writing and review of proposals, guidebooks, MPO guidance documents, long range transportation plans, and transit service plans.
- **Key Contributions**
 - Re-established relationships with anchor institutions in Baltimore by winning four (4) sole-source transportation planning projects
 - Overseeing the pursuit of multi-million dollar on-call transportation planning contract
 - Provide strategic and expert advice for local and national pursuits with government entities
 - Key team member for interviewing transportation planner candidates for positions across various offices
 - Established firm presence and relevance with nationally recognized organizations such as WTS Baltimore, ACEC, CEAM, and COMTO

Transit Bureau Chief – Responsible for leading the daily operations of six (6) multi-modal transportation and related units

- Managed an annual financial budget of over \$20 million for capital, operations, and other expenses.
- Managed requests from senior-level Agency officials, state and local government officials and outside stakeholders and provide recommendations to advance agency initiatives and resolve challenges.
- Acute knowledge and experience with Federal Planning regulations: Title 23 Part 450, Sections 5303, 5305 and 5307 that deal transit funding (e.g., Charm City Circulator), transit asset management, transit asset management planning requirements, non-attainment areas, performance-based planning and programming, annual performance targets for asset management, system performance reports, TIP, STIP, MTP, etc.
- Managed, hired, and developed a diverse staff of more than 20 professionals in various units related to the Transit Bureau and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation as a whole.
- Procured and established the Baltimore City Bike Share System after several prior attempts.
- Oversaw the successful installation of over 20 lane miles of bicycle infrastructure throughout the City leading to the coveted Bike Friendly City bronze status by The League of American Bicyclists.
- Reestablished the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee and successfully moved the City's Bicycle Master Plan and the Supplemental low-stress bike network plan through the City Planning Commission.
- Managed successful grants application submissions and received over \$15 million in grants for ferry boat services and bicycle infrastructure and facilities; utilized funding for several stalled and new projects.
- Regularly worked with local MPOs (e.g., Baltimore Metropolitan Council) to manage funding, contracts, joint proposals, projects, and short- and long-term TIP/STIP that were ultimately handled by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board.
- Coordinated transit-oriented development discussions with the State during the Red Line project.
- Developed and maintained long-term trusting relationships with the State transportation agencies' leadership, Baltimore City Mayor, City Council President, City Council Members, City Agency Directors, and local partners.
- Expanded the agency's focus on multimodal transit activities through collaboration with external stakeholders and state transportation agencies.
- Established regular coordination between the Transit Bureau, Planning, Traffic, Maintenance, and TEC for CIP funding requests to MDOT, federal and state grant proposals, and project coordination across disciplines as well as city agencies and utilities to provide singular communication.
- Developed, implemented, and directed the strategic vision of the Charm City Circulator (CCC) shuttle service to make it one of the most successful, reliable, and free transit options in Baltimore City.
- Garnered support for innovative financing, sustainability, shared mobility, and system streamlining initiatives.
- Oversaw rebranding efforts for key infrastructure improvements and provide recommendations to the Mayor and senior staff for the CCC, Harbor Connector, Dockmaster's Office, and the Bike Share system.
- Oversaw the management of the Harbor Connector ferry boat as well as the private partnership contract for the Baltimore Water Taxi that operates in the Inner Harbor.
- Oversaw the management of the Dockmaster's Office which collects docking fees, organizes and schedules visiting ships, patrols the pier areas, and enforces the City's portion of the Inner Harbor Wharf Agreements.
- Oversaw the Public Information Officers and Community Liaisons responsible for the output of agency related information via press releases, social media, Agency websites and through collaboration with the Mayor's Office.
- Managed the City's portion of the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel Project in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Amtrak.

- **Key Contributions**

- Established Baltimore City's Bike Share Program; largest electric pedal assist in North America
- Overseeing the procurement, design, and build of the first Electric Ferry Boat in the U.S.
- Re-negotiated complex contract agreements for the City's Charm City Circulator, Harbor Connector/Water Taxi, Dockmaster's Office, and Bike Share
- Oversaw the (former) Red Line Project for Baltimore City and negotiated the City's \$230 million in-kind and cash contributions for the (former) Red Line Project
- Negotiated the alternative design and mitigation funds (\$50 million) for the impacted neighborhoods in the final ROD for the NEPA study for the B & P Tunnel Project
- Established comprehensive plan and project review processes with Traffic, Maintenance, and TEC divisions

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Baltimore, MD
Office of Governmental Affairs

Jan 2012 to March 2014

Governmental Affairs Manager – Responsible for the drafting and review of internal and external legislative proposals that would affect the day to day and long-term operations of the MTA

- Managed and coordinated information flow between MTA, MDOT, state Elected Officials, community leaders, stakeholders, transportation interest groups, and other professional associations with an interest in MTA.
- Supplied expert policy advice within the agency and assisted in the development and installation of intermediate and long-term agency goals/objectives that aligned with the Administration agenda at the state and federal levels.
- Monitored, analyzed, and assessed legislative and policy issues that directly or indirectly impact the MTA.
- Wrote and edited various documents such as: letters to Elected Officials and constituents; draft briefing materials, position papers, data packages, and memos to the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Assistant Administrators, and Directors within MTA.
- Communicated with Elected Officials, stakeholders, and constituents regarding major transit issues at the overall State level as well as county-by-county and locally (e.g., community outreach projects, grant program funding awards, project funding guidelines, and advocating for MTA's legislative priorities and initiatives).
- Drafted and distributed correspondence on behalf of the MTA to State officials, members of the General Assembly, professional organizations, stakeholders, and constituents (e.g., troubleshooting, listening to others, and answering inquiries regarding agency policies and procedures).
- Represented MTA at conferences, commissions, hearings, and meetings on topics relevant to the agency agenda (e.g., hearing testimony, stakeholder advisory/work groups for MTA's transit efforts and responsibilities at the local, state, and federal levels).
- **Key Contributions**
 - Assisted in the operation and management of the Office of Governmental Affairs
 - Oversaw the state agency level review of federal MAP-21 legislation
 - Had a 100% 'bill kill' rate in State legislative issues for the MTA
 - Managed requests from senior-level Agency officials, state and local government officials and outside stakeholders for information on agency positions, plans, projects, proposals, and problems
 - Established a clear line of communications between local, state, federal legislators, and stakeholders
 - Negotiated a contract and relationship between MTA and a Baltimore City Youth Works program for discounted transit fare
 - Managed staff meetings with Agency officials for issues pertaining to governmental affairs

- Wrote Agency position papers for internal and external legislation proposals
- Recommended support or opposition for proposed legislative actions

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Hanover, MD
Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE)

Feb 2011 to Jan 2012

Legislative Affairs Manager – Responsible for the drafting and review of internal and external legislative proposals that would affect the day to day and long-term operations of the OMBE

- Monitored and analyzed proposed legislation related to minority, and disadvantaged business enterprise at both the State and federal levels and assist in the execution of enacted legislation.
- Provided expert policy advice within the department and assist in the development of intermediate and long-term agency goals/objectives that aligned with the Administration agenda at the state level.
- Wrote and edited various documents such as: letters to Elected Officials and constituents; draft briefing materials, position papers, data packages, and memos to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Directors within MDOT.
- Facilitated and maintained effective communication with state and federal elected officials, community leaders, minority interest groups, and other professional associations with an interest in MBE/DBE programs.
- Drafted and distributed correspondence on behalf of the MBE Program to State officials, members of the General Assembly, professional organizations, stakeholders, and constituents (e.g., troubleshooting, listening to others, and answering inquiries regarding agency practices, agendas, and goals).
- Gathered and assessed needs from outside organizations with respect to the MBE/DBE programs.
- Attended conferences, commissions, hearings, and meetings on behalf of OMBE and the Secretary on topics relevant to the agency agenda (e.g., stakeholder advisory/work groups for MBE/DBE efforts at the local, state, and federal levels).
- **Key Contributions**
 - Assisted in the operation and management of the legislative affairs component of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise
 - Provided strategic advice and legislative policy review for the Director of OMBE and the Secretary of Transportation
 - Participated and managed staff meetings with Agency officials for issues pertaining to governmental affairs
 - Managed requests from Senators, Representatives, and senior-level Agency officials, state and local government officials and outside stakeholders for information on agency positions, plans, projects, proposals, and problems
 - Carefully edited State government correspondence for style and content

United States Congress, Washington, DC
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

July 2009 to Apr 2010

Professional Staff (Legislative Assistant for United States Senate) – Responsible for providing strategic advice and managing information and requests associated with legislation and directives for foreign food aid.

- Analyzed and tracked legislation and policy changes in agricultural trade and agricultural development.
- Gathered and assessed needs from outside organizations with respect to national and international food aid and food security needs.
- Drafted and distributed correspondence on agricultural trade and development issues to Administration

officials, senior government officials, international officials, professional organizations, and constituents.

- Provided advice to the Chairman and assisted in the development of committee goals/agendas that aligned with the Administration agenda at the local, state, national and international level(s).
- Attended conferences, hearings, and meetings on behalf of the committee and the Chairman on topics relevant to the Committee agenda.
- Coordinated with Administration officials, senior government officials, international officials, professional organizations, stakeholders, and constituents regarding current and new developments in agricultural trade and development.
- **Key Contributions**
 - o Assisted with establishing legislation for foreign food aid and services in connection with the State Departments actions
 - o Proactively worked with State Department, Department of Agriculture, and outside stakeholders in providing notification for U.S. assistance in several foreign food aid crises, including Cuba
 - o Actively reviewed and contributed to portions of the Farm Bill
 - o Participated in Senate hearings and meetings with Senators, staffers, constituents, and stakeholders for matters dealing with pending and upcoming bills in the Senate and House of Representatives
 - o Carefully edited Congressional correspondence for style and content
 - o Coordinated with other Senate committees, federal agencies, NPOs, and other entities

United States Congress, Washington, DC
Office of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)

Sep 2007 to July 2009

Executive Assistant – Responsible for the day to day and long-term office operations and administrative functions for the Senator.

- Wrote and edited personal/official correspondence from the Senator's desk into final form.
- Served as liaison between the Senator and all parties directly or indirectly with Senate business, including members of Congress, the White House, agency officials, Administration officials, lobbyists, office/committee staff and constituents.
- Developed a prioritization system for the Senator.
- Managed Senator's personal files, official/unofficial correspondence, and telephone calls from senior government officials, members of Congress, senior corporate officials, staff, and constituents.
- Prepared and sent daily and monthly correspondence for staff, government/private sector officials and constituents, compiled briefing materials for domestic and international travel.
- **Key Contributions**
 - o Assisted with the operations and management of the Office of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)
 - o Participated in Senate hearings and meetings with Senators, staffers, constituents, and stakeholders for matters dealing with pending and upcoming bills in the Senate and House of Representatives
 - o Managed requests from Senators, Representatives, and senior-level Agency officials, state and local government officials and outside stakeholders for information on agency positions, plans, projects, proposals, and problems.
 - o Carefully edited Congressional correspondence for style and content.

VERONICA PERRY McBETH

United States Congress, Washington, DC

May 2003 to June 2007

Parliamentary Assistant for United States Senate – Responsible for the daily drafting and review of Congressional correspondence that related to legislative and parliamentary procedural issues within the Senate.

- Wrote final language for Executive nominations, Executive appointments, and various floor scripts (e.g., language to call a quorum, to call a vote for an executive nomination and language to 'open and close' business on the Senate floor).
- Interpreted statutory language, researched legislative history, recommended petition legislation, and executive communications to appropriate Senate Committees.
- Organized and composed the Senate program, unanimous consent agreements, and language in the Calendar of Business and the Congressional Record.
- Received and processed executive communications for the Vice President's Office.
- Liaised and filtered parliamentary inquiries from Senators, staffers, members of the press and constituents (e.g., provided proper point-of-contact for understanding Senate rules, procedures, and actions).
- **Key Contributions**
 - o Referred draft legislation to appropriate Senate Committees for review
 - o Participated in meetings with Senators and staffers for matters dealing with pending and upcoming bills in the Senate and House of Representatives
 - o Assisted with the operations and management of the Senate Parliamentarian's Office
 - o Carefully edited Congressional correspondence for style and content
 - o Managed requests from Senators, Representatives, and senior-level Agency officials, state and local government officials and outside stakeholders for information on agency positions, plans, projects, proposals, and problems



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL Legislative Investigations Committee

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Legislative Investigations Committee is to ensure open, accessible and accountable government. The Committee will hold prompt and thorough hearings on all Executive Nominations. Additionally, the Committee will oversee enforcement of Ethics Rules and will monitor and review Rules of the City Council.

The Honorable Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair

PUBLIC HEARING

**Thursday, January 29, 2025
4:45 PM**

Council Chamber

EA25-0002 – Jon Laria – Chair – Planning Commission

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS (BA)

Danielle McCray - Chair
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Vice Chair
Paris Gray
Antonio Glover
Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Mark Conway - Chair
Zac Blanchard – Vice Chair
Danielle McCray
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Paris Gray
Phylicia Porter
Antonio Glover
Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (HCD)

James Torrence – Chair
Odette Ramos – Vice Chair
Zac Blanchard
Phylicia Porter
Danielle McCray
Ryan Dorsey
Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (PHE)

Phylicia Porter - Chair
Mark Conway - Vice Chair
Mark Parker
Ryan Dorsey
James Torrence
John Bullock
Odette Ramos
Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

LABOR AND WORKFORCE (LW)

Jermaine Jones – Chair
James Torrence – Vice Chair
Danielle McCray
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Ryan Dorsey – Chair
Sharon Green Middleton – Vice Chair
Mark Parker
Paris Gray
John Bullock
Phylicia Porter
Zac Blanchard
Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND OLDER ADULT (EYOA)

John Bullock – Chair
Mark Parker – Vice Chair
Sharon Green Middleton
James Torrence
Zac Blanchard
Jermaine Jones
Odette Ramos
Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer - Chair
Antonio Glover – Vice Chair
Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton
Paris Gray
Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)

Jon Laria

Nominee for Appointment as Planning Commission Member (Chair)



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City Hall
Room 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

MAYOR'S REQUEST TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONFIRMATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICER

Pursuant to Article IV, §§6(a) and (b) of the Baltimore City Charter 1996 Edition, Mayor Brandon M. Scott hereby requests the City Council of Baltimore City to confirm the appointment of **Jon Laria** to serve as a municipal officer on the **Planning Commission**. In support of this request, information concerning the mayoral appointee is provided below.

The information set forth in both the document and the attached resume have been distributed to authorized persons for use in the City Council confirmation process.

Name: Jon Laria

Email: lariajm@gmail.com

Appointed to: Baltimore City Planning Commission (Chair)

Succeeds: Sean Davis (Former Chair)

Term Expiration Date: December 5, 2028

Previous Terms Served (if none, write N/A): N/A

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Specific Board Requirements: The Planning Commission shall consist of nine members...six of whom shall be appointed, must be confirmed, and shall serve pursuant to Article IV, Section 6. (ART. VII, § 71)

Council District: 5

Current Occupation: Special Counsel

Current Employer: Ballard Spahr LLP

Employer's Address: 111 S. Calvert Street, 27th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202

Other Relevant Employment: See attached resume

Undergraduate Institution: Johns Hopkins University (Grad. 1985)

Graduate Institution: University of Maryland School of Law (J.D. 1992)

Civic and Professional Affiliations: See attached resume

Signature: 

Distribution:

Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair, Legislative Investigations Committee
Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Shamoyia Gardiner, Legislative Director, Office of the Council President
Ethan Hasiuk, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of the Council President



BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor
100 Holliday Street, Suite 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

January 8, 2025

Jon M. Laria
4305 Wickford Road
Baltimore, MD 21210

Dear Mr. Laria:

Please accept this letter as formal notice that I have nominated you to serve as the Chair of the Planning Commission.

You will be contacted by the Office of City Council President Zeke Cohen with notification of the date and time at which you are to appear before the City Council for your confirmation hearing.

Please direct all inquiries concerning this process to Ty'lor Schnella, Legislative Liaison. He can be reached via telephone at 443.469.1872, or email Tylor.schnella@baltimorecity.gov

Your service as a member of the Baltimore City Planning Commission has my full confidence and support. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the City of Baltimore.

In Service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

cc: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
The Honorable Zeke Cohen, City Council President
The Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair, Legislative Investigations Committee

Ballard Spahr



Jon M. Laria

SPECIAL COUNSEL

laria@ballardspahr.com

Baltimore

tel 410.528.5506

fax 410.528.5650

Services

Real Estate | Real Estate Development and Transactions | Mixed-Use, Condominium, and Multifamily Development | Zoning and Land Use |
Housing | Eminent Domain | Municipal Recovery | Infrastructure | Commercial Finance | Government Affairs and Public Policy |
Political and Election Law | Sports and Entertainment

Jon M. Laria represents owners, developers, investors, and lenders in all types of commercial real estate transactions, including development, finance, acquisition, and leasing. Jon also has a leading land use, zoning, and entitlements practice and has provided counsel for some of Baltimore's most prominent development projects. Before becoming an attorney, he was employed by a major Baltimore-based developer, where he engaged in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions. Jon is a member of Ballard Spahr's Senior Leadership Team, and he served as Baltimore Office Managing Partner for over a decade.

Jon served on the Transition Teams for Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Comptroller Bill Henry and, most recently, as the Community Development and Smart Growth Workgroup Chair for Maryland Governor Wes Moore's transition.

He serves as Chair of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC), to which he was appointed by Governor Moore. The BRTC oversees the Maryland Transit Administration and advocates for transit in the Baltimore region. He was also appointed by the Governor to the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs, whose charge is to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on the prioritization and funding of Maryland transportation projects. Jon previously served as a member of the Baltimore Transit Funding and Governance Workgroup, which recommended to the Governor and General Assembly a restructuring of Greater Baltimore's transit system.

In Baltimore, Jon chaired the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission, promoting bicycling and other forms of micromobility as a safe and convenient form of transportation and recreation, and coordinating City agency implementation of the City's Bicycle Master Plan. He previously served as a mayoral appointee on Baltimore's Tax Policy Task Force and on a group that developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the City. Jon is now serving on the City's Tax Credit Workgroup, which will review and recommend necessary changes to development tax credits and other incentives in the city.

Jon also co-chaired the Mayor's Safe Art Space Task Force, charged with recommending to the mayor ways to develop and sustain spaces that protect the safety of artists and patrons while meeting the logistical and technical needs of artists and audiences. Jon was appointed by the Baltimore City Health Commissioner to the Task Force on Drug Treatment Access and Neighborhood Relations, whose purpose was to facilitate the siting of necessary treatment facilities without causing undue burdens on local communities.

In Baltimore County, Jon served on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Ethics and Accountability, charged with reviewing county ethics laws and regulations. The Commission's recommendations have been enacted as amendments to county charter and code.

Jon was the founding Chair of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, the successor to the State's Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development, which he also chaired. Created and enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, the Commission was charged with assessing and advising on the progress of state, regional, and local planning in achieving

Maryland's economic growth, resource protection, and planning policy.

Jon also served as a member of the Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission, a joint commission appointed by the Maryland House Speaker and Senate President to examine the State's economic development structure and incentive programs, and to make recommendations to keep Maryland competitive in economic and private sector growth and prosperity. Jon also co-chaired the Housing and Community Development Transition Team for former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and served on the governor's Transition Steering Committee.

Nationally, Jon serves on the Futures Council for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a panel of thought leaders who advise the Conservancy on its efforts to develop hiking and biking trails across the country, including the planned Greenway Trail Network in Baltimore.

Jon is a founder of the Baltimore Development Workgroup, an affinity group of development professionals who work on real estate development issues and business climate in the City of Baltimore, and co-chaired the Partnership for Building Reuse, a joint project of the Urban Land Institute and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to maximize the productive re-use of existing buildings. He was the Chair of the Baltimore City Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), a trade organization with more than 1,300 member firms.

Jon serves as an officer or member of many civic boards and organizations, including the Greater Baltimore Committee, a pre-eminent regional business organization, where he co-chairs the Baltimore's Transit Future Steering Committee. He is vice-chair of Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., a board member of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, and a board member of Associated Jewish Charities, Inc., which oversees the real estate and financial assets of the Associated. He previously served as president of Live Baltimore, a nonprofit whose principal mission is the attraction of residents to Baltimore.

Professional Highlights

Pro Bono Experience

As part of Ballard Spahr's pro bono program, Jon served as counsel to Star-Spangled 200, Inc., the nonprofit organization responsible for supporting Maryland's celebration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, and Light City, Baltimore's international festival of light and innovation. He has also led the firm's pro bono work on numerous community development and financing transactions throughout the City, including most recently the redevelopment of the historic Hebrew Orphans Asylum in West Baltimore into a community health center and the redevelopment of Justice Thurgood Marshall's elementary school, PS 103, into a community legal services center.

Judicial Clerkships

Hon. Howard S. Chasanow, Maryland Court of Appeals, 1992-1993

Professional Activities

Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), Chair of the Baltimore City Chapter

American Bar Association

District of Columbia Bar Association

Maryland Bar Association

Bar Association of Baltimore City

Urban Land Institute, full member

International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)

Johns Hopkins University, past faculty member, Master's in Real Estate program

Maryland's continuing legal education program, past instructor, "Advanced Real Estate Transactions"

Ballard Spahr's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council

Recognition & Accomplishments

The Daily Record, Power 30 in Law

The Daily Record, Maryland Power 100 list

Chambers USA, Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use law (Maryland), 2006-2024, "Senior Statesman," 2024

The Best Lawyers in America, Real Estate Law, Land Use and Zoning Law (Baltimore), 2007-2025; "Lawyer of the Year," Land Use and Zoning Law (Baltimore), 2012, 2020, Real Estate Law (Baltimore), 2022

The Legal 500 US, Real Estate and Construction - Real Estate, 2017; Real Estate - Land Use/Zoning, 2022, 2024

Recipient of *The Daily Record's* 2011 Leadership in Law award, recognizing members of the legal community who have devoted time and energy to bettering the profession and their communities, and have played an important role in mentoring future professional and community leaders

Named one of 2009's "Smart Lawyers" by *SmartCEO* magazine, an honor based on leadership, exemplary professional success and engagement, and community involvement

Selected for Baltimore's "40 Under 40," *Baltimore Business Journal*

Speaking Engagements

Participant in numerous panels and programs related to real estate law, land use and development, and the real estate industry in general

Special guest speaker, "Doubling Down on Downtown Baltimore," Downtown Download webcast series, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, October 26, 2021

Board Memberships & Community Service

Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC)

Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA)

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., Vice Chair

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission, past Chair

Blue Ribbon Commission on Ethics & Accountability, Baltimore County

Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore

Baltimore Jewish Council, past President

Johns Hopkins University, past Trustee

Johns Hopkins Alumni Association, Baltimore, past President

Land Bank Task Force

Live Baltimore, past President

Public Policy Advisory Board of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, past Chair

ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, Regional Investment Committee, past Chair

Community Memberships

Baltimore City Historical Society

Beth Am Synagogue

Greater Baltimore Committee's Leadership program, past participant

Related Insights

- "How Baltimore City Is Hoping to Spark New Affordable Housing Development," Media Coverage, August 21, 2024
- "Take a Look Inside \$14M Redo of Thurgood Marshall's School in Upton," Media Coverage, April 9, 2024
- "A To-Do List for Upgrading Public Transit Around Baltimore," Media Coverage, February 29, 2024
- "Transit Choices Virtual Meeting," Speaking Engagement, February 29, 2024
- "Ballard Spahr's Jon Laria Named Chair of Baltimore Regional Transit Commission," Press Release, February 12, 2024
- "Changing Tracks: Could a New Approach to TODs Succeed?," Media Coverage, January 28, 2024
- "New Inclusionary Housing Mandates for Baltimore City," Legal Alert, December 10, 2023
- "What Role Does the Business Community Play With the Red Line?," Media Coverage, October 24, 2023
- "A Look at the Community Efforts that Kept Pressure on Getting the Red Line Going Again," Media Coverage, July 23, 2023
- "Thomas Hauser Named to Lead Ballard Spahr's Baltimore Office," Media Coverage, April 25, 2023
- "Ballard Spahr Names Thomas Hauser Managing Partner in Baltimore," Press Release, April 24, 2023
- "2022 Transportation Summit," Speaking Engagement, September 28, 2022
- "With Help From Ballard Spahr, Pennrose's Renaissance Row Opens in Baltimore's Park Heights," Press Release, June 1, 2022
- "Post-Pandemic, Flower Mart Criterium Bicycle Races Return to Baltimore—With Boost From Ballard Spahr," Press Release, May 22, 2022
- "Baltimore Multifamily and Affordable Housing Summit," Speaking Engagement, March 9, 2022
- "Introducing The Daily Record's Power 30 Law: Jon Laria," Media Coverage, December 28, 2021
- "Downtown Download: Double Down on Downtown Baltimore," Speaking Engagement, October 26, 2021
- "Ballard Spahr's Baltimore Office Will Remain in City's Central Business District," Press Release, October 6, 2021
- "Ballard Spahr Signs 11-Year Deal to Remain in Downtown Baltimore," Media Coverage, October 5, 2021
- "Chambers USA Names Ballard Spahr Leading Lawyers and Practices for 2020," Awards and Rankings, April 23, 2020
- "Baltimore Passes 'Complete Streets' Law Requiring More Bike-, Pedestrian-Friendly Road Design," Media Coverage, December 5, 2018
- "Jon Laria Receives Building Industry Award," Awards and Rankings, November 15, 2018
- "DOT Delays Decision on Roland Park Cycle Track," Media Coverage, July 22, 2018
- "Ballard Spahr Named 2018 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year by Maryland Legal Aid," Press Release, June 7, 2018
- "Spring Leadership Luncheon," Speaking Engagement, May 15, 2018

Credentials

Education

University of Maryland School of Law (J.D. 1992, with honors)
Articles Editor, *Maryland Law Review*

Johns Hopkins University (B.A. 1985)

Admissions

District of Columbia

Maryland