



## HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0022

### Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds Hearing Reconvened – 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Committee:** Public Health and Environment

**Chaired by:** Chairwoman Phylicia Porter

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**Time (Beginning):** 10:05 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:35 AM

**Location:** Council Chambers

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 35 In-Person  
Approximately 10 Virtually

#### Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter      James Torrence

Mark Parker      John Bullock

Odette Ramos – Excused Absence

Ryan Dorsey – Excused Absence

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

#### Major Speakers (This is not an attendance record.)

- Sarah Whalen, Mayor's Office of Overdose and Recovery (MOOR)
- Elizabeth Tantrum, Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP)

- Public Testimony/Speakers
- Ven McCormick, New Life Recovery
- Candy Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction
- Tramar Wilson, Pride Center of Maryland

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter gave brief opening remarks.
2. The representatives from MOOR and MROP (in conjunction) gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.** Some topics of discussion included:
  - Per Ms. Tantrum, \$39 million was awarded thus far
  - Status of Named Programs
  - Status of Grant Implementation
  - Status of Community-Based Grants
  - Grant monitoring and oversight
    - Annual Planning for same
  - Performance Metrics
  - Overdose Response Strategic Plan
  - Partnerships and Engagement
3. After the PowerPoint Presentation Chairwoman Porter talked about some of the positive “engagement/interactions” she has with the MOOR and MROP offices.
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
  - From the twenty-two (22) grantees already named and the grantees that are named today, how were they evaluated?
    - Was there any interaction with the Law Department?
  - Scope of Work
    - If there are any issues with the scope of work provided and if so, what are the City’s resources to realign same?
  - **Requested by Chairwoman Porter: Please provide:**
    - A copy of the grant agreement(s)
    - The scope of work agreements for the twenty-two-22 named organizations (grantees)
    - List of any organization that have “corrective action plans
  - The grantees and their scope of work, how do they balance it? Talk about this! Talk about how those balances show up in the agreements
  - How are you setting up these organizations for sustainability? Talk about this.
  - Data Tracking
    - Are you tracking data and will it be available for public review?
    - Do you know when the platform/dashboard will be completed?
  - Metrics for Grantees
    - Do we track their progress?
    - How do you track it?
    - Are we tracking their recommendations to the City and State?
  - Quality Assurance Measures
    - How are we making sure these grantees are qualified?

- Have any of these organizations been investigated on the State level?
- Penalties
  - The importance of making sure staff is not under any investigation!
- Lawsuits
  - Do we have a sense of how much is needed for legal fees?
- Flow of Funds
  - How many years of State funding will be available? **Answer: Approximately 15 years**
  - As of this moment, while considering deductions such as legal fees, etc., how much do you think will be available next year?
- Requested by Committee member Parker: Please provide: (to be provided by the Department of Finance)
  - As of this moment, how much of the \$580 million has the city received?
    - To include - How much we have spent on legal fees thus far
    - To include - Outstanding legal fees

4. Public Testimony was allowed; (three [3] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:

Statements:

- I am here because I care about what happens with the Opioid Funds!
- The LGBTQ community is in a crisis, a public health alarm!
- The LGBTQ community need a “seat at the table!”
- A close look is needed: At the organizations who are actually providing services
- Overdose prevention centers are very useful!

Concerns:

- Physiological Needs - Importance of having housing
- Ongoing medical services needed
- Concerned about the number of overdoses occurring!
- It is important that people get the help and funds that are available!

5. Chairwoman Porter asked the representative from the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) to talk about how their office interacts with the City’s LGBTQ office.

6. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks. Some topics of her remarks included:

- \*Comments regarding: Direct accountability of the funds
- \*Comments regarding: Sustainable methods for agencies
- \*Statement: This matter will not be resolved overnight!
- \*How “we” should help as elected officials

7. Hearing recessed

**Further Study**

Was further study requested?

If yes, describe.

1. See “red and yellow” highlights above.

Yes  No

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File

Date: January 29, 2026

**Baltimore City Council**  
**Committee Hearing Attendance Record**

Subject: <b>Legislative Oversight: Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds</b>	# LO25-0022
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylicia Porter
Date: <b>Wednesday, January 21, 2026</b>	Time: <b>10:00 AM</b>
Location: <b>Council Chambers</b>	

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

What is  
your  
position on  
this bill?

Lobbyist:  
Are you  
registered in  
the City?\*

**CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY**

Testify

For  
Against  
Yes  
No

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ven	McCormick	110 St Paul St/Venirethe New Life Recovery		✓		✓	
Candy	Kem	(KERR)					

\*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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**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		
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Truman	Wilson	Pride Center of MD	✓			

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# City of Baltimore

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Public Health & Environment Committee

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Wednesday, January 21, 2026

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone: 1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2341 369 8214, Password: Public, Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m98e39abcd58edc90a0d66c8eb763ac66>

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#### **LO25-0022 - Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present 4 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Parker, James Torrence, and John Bullock

Excused 2 - Ryan Dorsey, and Odette Ramos

Absent 1 - Mark Conway

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

##### LO25-0022      Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds

For the purpose of assessing the allocation and impact of the Opioid Restitution funds, ensuring they are utilized effectively to support evidence-based strategies that benefit the city's most vulnerable populations.

Hearing Recessed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**