



HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 21-0062R

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings
Office Structure and Program Overview

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello
Hearing Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021
Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM
Time (Ending): 12:35 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello Kristerfer Burnett
Robert Stokes, Sr. Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray Sharon Green Middleton
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 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

This Resolution will remain open throughout the legislative term – no vote will be conducted, on-going quarterly meetings.

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Christopher Shorter, City Administrator
- Robert (Bob) Cename, Finance Department
- Aaron Brown, on behalf of Finance Department and Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

Major Issues Discussed

1. **President Mosby** gave opening remarks. Some highlights from his conversation were:
 - This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to drive our city into the right direction
 - We must ensure that a sound strategic plan is intact
 - \$641 million dollars is a lot of money
 - Our goals and objects are:
 - Ensuring we are moving in the right direction for the residents and communities we serve
 - To review how funds are spent
 - Addressing the needs of the city
2. **The City Administrator** also gave opening remarks. Some highlights from his conversation were:
 - These funds are a critical lifeline and have specific requirements
 - There is a timeline for the funds to be spent
 - Talked about the role of the Office of Recovery Programs and about some of the responsibilities of the staff
 - Quarterly reporting is important and looks forward to continuing discussion as we move toward
3. **The Finance Director** made some comments. Some were:
 - Have shared the Department's perspective with the Administration on how to address the challenges associated with COVID
 - Shared why a separate office was set-up to manage the ARPA funds (Office of Recovery Programs)
4. **The Director for the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs** gave opening remarks and gave a PowerPoint presentation. *A copy is on file.* Some highlights from her remarks were:
 - Acknowledged her team and thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to serve in the position
 - Information regarding the funding is accessible/available
 - This is an opportunity to restore faith in local government
5. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
 - **Questions**
 - How does the Budget Stabilization Fund work with the ARPA Funding?
 - How many years will the Budget Stabilization Funding be available?
 - What happens to the Budget Stabilization Funds if not spent by the deadline date?
 - Concern: Services continuing; what happens to these services after the CARES funds are depleted?
 - Has any discussion been made to set-a-side any specific amount of the ARPA funds?
 - Have any specific decisions been made for any agency(s) and/or Programs for ARPA spending? **Answer: No**
 - What is the expectation on the time for allocation to the agencies? **Answer: Sometime during this month; October 2021**
 - Who are and/or how many members will serve on the Review Committee? **Answer: Six (6) in total** And, who are the external partners serving on the

Committee? **Requested by President Mosby: Please provide a list of the committee members to include a list of the external partners.**

- Is anyone from the Finance Department setting on the Review Committee?
- The Non-Profit Review Team – have this team been established and if so, how many members are there? **Answer: No, not yet but soon and will have six (6) members.**
- What is the plan for evaluating equity? And will the members (team) be qualified to do same?
- Who is eligible to apply for funds?
- How much money is being allocated to non-profits?
- When will all decisions be finalized for non-profits? **Answer: By December 31, 2021**
- If an agency(s) is rejected who help those agencies with their needs? Such as getting funds from state and federal levels?
- How much will the new Office of Recovery Programs cost annually during the course of funding? **Answer: Office will be in existence for three (3) years and at cost of \$10.6 million**
- Why isn't the Office of Recovery Programs being operated in the Planning Department? Concern: Duplication of efforts and resources
- Core City Services
 - Is there a backlog list for core city services such as illegal dumping requests? If so, is the backlog list prioritized to get things done? **Answer: Per Budget Director, will follow-up with OPI and respond back**
 - Have any decisions been made for addressing the backlog for core services such as trimming trees?
 - We don't want to reinvent the wheel but instead improve city services; to advance the services of city agencies
 - Innovation and core services -What weight are you giving to agencies and non-profits?
 - Comments/Concerns: Trees were cut down several years ago, but the tree stumps need to be removed (this backlog is of concern); must deliver better city services
- Proposal amount – How did you decide on the \$250,000 amount?
- Slides 13 and 20 in Presentation: Which is the priority; priorities or pillars? Want to make sure everyone is working from the same framework!
- Endorsements
 - What type of power will councilmembers have in the ten (10) endorsements?
- How do we balance new (future funds) federal funds? (Infrastructure funding)
- Virtual Meetings with Non-Profits
 - **Requested by Councilwoman Middleton – Can we get a list of the non-profits in our districts who attended these meetings? Answer: Per the Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, will follow-up with Council on this request**
- Applicants

- **Requested by Chairman Costello** – Please provide a list of the ineligible applications for city agencies who were denied and also a list for those who were eligible and denied
- Criteria Used for Scoring Agencies
 - **Requested by Councilman Schleifer** – Can you submit the scoring/results for same?
- Recovery Plan(s) that are submitted to the Federal government
 - **Requested by President Mosby** – Please make sure the committee/council get copies of this plan and any other plans that are made public
- Revenue Generated Positions
 - What about bringing on extra full time employee positions such as Parking Enforcement Officer; positions that are revenue generated
 - Is this something we can look into? (Reoccurring revenue positions)
 - Who job is it to identify when additional revenue generated positions are needed? **Answer: It is my responsibility; Budget Director**
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: Can you put together a list of ten (10) things that we can do to generate revenue?**
- Technology/Dashboard
 - Can you walk us through some of the plans you have for informing the public on how funds/projects are being implemented and/or spent?
- Engagement/Training Strategies
 - Is there any additional training available for those who wish to apply for funding?
 - At least one (1) additional virtual training is needed for the public on the application process
- Timing, Decisions, Deadlines
 - After they are made are, we going to see the dollars spent? When will we see the funding start being spent?
- **Concerns:**
 - Particularly interested in who the external partners are
 - The construction of these teams is important and of concern
 - Have concerns about:
 - Equity
 - The expectations for those applying for funds
 - The backlog for core services seems to be getting longer and longer
 - About the importance of delivering core services effectively and collectively; to fix/upkeep basic things
 - Equity
 - We have one opportunity to get this right!
 - Do we have specific measures for it? Is there a plan for our agencies, quasi agencies, and non-profits?
 - Is there a timeline for the Plan?
 - Equity is a priority for me
 - The importance of equity and equity when making decisions

- Concern – eliminating organizations who are doing the work because they don't have a physical location
- Concern:
 - Equity Development
 - Make sure applications/applicants are received from everywhere throughout city
 - Feels the application process for scoring is a piecemeal approach
 - Sustainability of programs moving forward is of concern
 - The disconnect with some agencies and our communities
 - There is a desperate need for more cameras for illegal dumping and other violations going on in our city
 - New Recycling Cans – training is needed for communities regarding the process (placing cans on front or back)

- **Comments:**

- Looks forward to working with the Office of Recovery Programs
- Talked about the importance of maximizing funding/dollars
- We should know right now that some of these funds will go to needed core city services and it should not be on just one agency (Administration) to do same

6. President Mosby and Chairman Costello both gave brief closing remarks. Chairman Costello said, "I like to continue our dialogue starting with the OPI Office in conjunction with the City Administrator providing a list of the backlog for core agencies services, in volume and priority. And how and/or if some of the ARPA funds can be used to put major dents in those backlogs." Hearing called to recess.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. See requests noted in "Red" in the Major Issues Discussed section above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: October 20, 2021

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Resolution – American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearing – Office Structure and Program Overview	Resolution #: 21-0062R
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021	Time: 10:00 AM

Location: **Virtual "WebEx" Meeting**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Testify</div>	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoebmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>See hearing Notes</i>					

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Ways and Means

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

10:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2330 824 4019, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?
MTID=e302c6a76aff9b1a1af014c7899b24e3f](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e302c6a76aff9b1a1af014c7899b24e3f)

21-0062R
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

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

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

21-0062R

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings

For the purpose of calling for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsors: President Nicholas J. Mosby, Eric T. Costello, Sharon Green Middleton, Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Robert Stokes, Sr., Kristerfer Burnett, Odette Ramos, James Torrence, John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen

Hearing recessed; scheduled to reconvene on Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT