

# CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



## OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director  
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## HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0011

### Briefing – Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Revenue Estimates

**Committee:** Budget and Appropriations  
**Chaired by:** Councilwoman Danielle McCray

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
**Time (Beginning):** 9:00 AM  
**Time (Ending):** 10:40 AM  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 45 In-Person  
Approximately 10 Virtually

#### Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray Sharon Green Middleton  
Paris Gray

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

This legislative oversight will remain open throughout the legislative term; no vote will be taken; quarterly budget hearings.

#### Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Laura Larsen, Bureau of Budget & Management Research (BBMR)
- Faith Leach, Mayor's Office



## Major Issues Discussed

1. The representative from BBMR gave a Point Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
  - Topic: FY 2026 Revenue Overview – based on projections through January 31, 2025
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and gave comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concerns were:
  - **Concerns:**
    - Broad-based Fees – Increases
      - Any broad-based fees will hurt Baltimore City and its residents!
      - Why take it out on our residents! Some are really struggling!
      - We are just starting to see (a trend) an increase in our population
      - New fees could deter new businesses from coming here
      - If new fees and/or increases occur, businesses will definitely pass it on to the consumers, our residents!
      - How the increased rates will affect older adults – is of concern!
  - CAO Leach stated, “The City have some fees that have not been increased in years! We will be reviewing those fees, and we will be targeting certain fees. There are some services the City provides whereas the fees collected for same does not cover those services.”
    - Concern: The timing of your analyses, (May vs. the Fall) why do it now instead of in the Fall?
    - I know you will be mindful and thoughtful about how increased fees are rolled out!
  - **Collection of fees along with the collection rate for same**
    - Talk about this
    - What are you doing to increase the collection rates?
    - What are some of your strategies for same?
  - **Income Tax Revenue**
    - How will the federal workers layoffs impact our income taxes revenue?
    - Concern: City is losing residents who make under \$30,000/year – this trend is of concern
  - **Traffic Cameras:**
    - Where will the additional projected revenue come from?
  - **Questions:**
    - Have you thought this through when it comes to increased tipping fees for small haulers?
      - Concern: Increased illegal dumping
    - When will the final numbers be available for the revenue forecast?
3. CAO Leach gave closing remarks stating, “We (the City) are going to begin to face unprecedented times! Without additional revenue we will not be able to balance our budget! We will be happy to meet with councilmembers to talk about how we can obtain additional revenue and about potential cost-savings. We are concerned about reduced federal funding and reduced grant funding.”
4. President Cohen gave closing remarks too, stating, “I hope we continue to improve our street structures and is glad to see the increased revenue in the projection for Highway Users Revenue.

I would like to see us doing everything possible to keep our residents and the upward trend in increasing the City's population.

5. Hearing called to recess.

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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

If yes, describe.

☐ Yes ☒ No

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: April 10, 2025

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File



**Baltimore City Council  
Committee Hearing Attendance Record**

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b> <b>Legislative Oversight</b> – Agency Briefing – FY26 Preliminary Revenue Estimates | <b>LO#:</b> LO25-0011         |
| <b>Committee:</b> Budget and Appropriations   | <b>Chair:</b> Danielle McCray |
| <b>Date:</b> Tuesday, April 8, 2025   | <b>Time:</b> 9:00 AM          |
| <b>Location:</b> Council Chambers   |                               |

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY**

| First Name         | Last Name      | Address / Organization / Email                 |  | What is your position on this bill? |         | Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?* |    |
|--------------------|----------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------|--|----|
|                    |                |  |   | For                                 | Against | Yes  | No |
| John               | Doe            | 400 N. Holliday St.<br>Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com | ✓   | ✓                                   | ✓       | ✓  |    |
| Laura              | Larsen         | Finance  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
| <del>Sarah P</del> | <del>DOP</del> |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
| Faith              | Leach          | Mayor's Office                                 |   |                                     |         |  |    |
|                    |                |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
|                    |                |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
|                    |                |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
|                    |                |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |
|                    |                |  |   |                                     |         |  |    |

\*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

### Budget & Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

9:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:  
1-408-418-9388 Password: Public Access code: 2349 041  
0389 Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m1996232d78380f51e4263c8a61f9c19f)  
MTID=m1996232d78380f51e4263c8a61f9c19f

#### LO25-0011 -Briefing - Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Revenue Estimates

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 3 - Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Paris Gray

**Absent** 2 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Antonio "Tony" Glover

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### LO25-0011 Briefing – Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Revenue Estimates

For the purpose of calling on the Department of the Finance - Bureaus of Revenue and Collections and Budget and Management Research (BBMR), to brief the City Council on the Preliminary Revenue Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026, provide a comparison to FY 2025 and 2024.

Also, for the purpose of calling on the Department of Finance's Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR), to come brief and update the City Council on Q2 Fiscal Year 2025 financial performance for the period ended December 31, 2024, and how this compares to the prior period.

Hearing was recessed.

#### ADJOURNMENT