



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0080

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 – Day Three – Budget Hearings

Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Time (Beginning): 9:00 AM
Time (Ending): 9:35 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Baltimore’s Office of Promotion and the Arts

Time (Beginning): 9:35 AM
Time (Ending): 10:00 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Environmental Control Board

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM
Time (Ending): 10:25 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

CHARM TV

Time (Beginning): 10:30 AM
Time (Ending): 10:55 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Parking Authority of Baltimore City

Time (Beginning): 11:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:15 AM
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 40

Law Department

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM
Time (Ending): 1:30 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 55

Comptroller's Office

Time (Beginning): 2:00 PM
Time (Ending): 3:25 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Office of the Inspector General

Time (Beginning): 3:30 PM
Time (Ending): 4:25 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Department of General Services

Time (Beginning): 4:30 PM
Time (Ending): 5:30 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Department of Public Works

Time (Beginning): 6:05 PM
Time (Ending): 9:40 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 65

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:			
Seconded by:			
Final Vote:			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Dana Moore, Equity and Civil Rights
- Brian Wentz, Baltimore's Office of Promotion and the Arts
- Chris Shorter, Mayor's Office/City Administrator
- Brittany Vendryes, Environmental Control Board
- Calvin Harris, Charm TV
- Joe Delbalso, Charm TV
- Peter Little, Parking Authority of Baltimore City
- James Shea, Law Department
- Darnell Ingram, Law Department
- Robert Cenname, Department of Finance
- Bill Henry, Comptroller's Office
- Erika McClammy, Comptroller's Office
- Andrew Frank, Comptroller's Office
- Isabel Cumming, Inspector General's Office
- Yvonne Brooks, Inspector General's Office
- Michelle Phillips, Inspector General's Office
- Chichi Nyagah-Nash, Department of General Services
- Daniel Ramos, Mayor's Office
- Julia Kalloz, Department of General Services
- Bambi Stevens, Department of General Services
- John Chalmers, Department of General Services
- Jason Mitchell, Department of General Services
- Yvonne Moore-Jackson, Department of General Services
- Daniel Ramos, Mayor's Office
- Matt Garbark, Department of General Services
- Yosef Kebede, Department of General Services
- Aaron Moore, Department of Finance
- Kim Grove, Department of General Services
- Kristyn Oldendorf, Department of General Services

Major Issues Discussed

1. Several agency heads and their staff came before the committee/council member for day three (3) of the budget hearings.
2. PowerPoint presentations were given by the agencies. **Copies of all presentations received are on file.**
3. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

- **Performance Measures**
 - Comment: Sometimes the performance measures used are ineffective – is of concern
- **Staffing**
 - Concern: Staffing/Understaffed to investigate matters
- **Equity**
 - Equity is part of your office but is not in your budget, where is it represented in the budget?
- **Languages**
 - Does any of your employees speak Spanish? This is of concern
- **Complaints**
 - Do you get many complaints about construction sites?
 - Do you think you would get more complaints if you had more investigators?
- **Wage Enforcement** – would like to see reports on wage enforcement

Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

- **Public Art Commission**
 - Where are we with the public art funding?

Environmental Control Board

- **Water Billing**
 - What is your role in water billing?
 - Comments regarding appeals/backlog for water billing
 - People can bring water billing issues to the Board; when did this start?
- **Partnerships**
 - What role does your office play with animal control?
- **Tax Sales**
 - Concern: Several older adult homes are going into tax sales; been trying to figure out how to address this

CHARM TV

- **Cable and Communications**
 - This channel has historically been the Mayor's channel; how can the Council be assured that some of their work is highlighted as well?

Parking Authority of Baltimore City

- **New Parking Meters**
 - What is the update for replacing the old parking meters?
 - **Request: Provide a list of where the new meters will be placed**
- **Residential Parking Permits**
 - When will the permits be available?

Law Department

- **Water Utility Fund**
 - Is it possible to use this fund for litigation?
- **Languages**
 - Does any of your employees speak Spanish? This is of concern
 - Does anyone in your office work with constituents that speak other languages?
- **Legal Affairs for Police Department**
 - How are the settlements going for the Gun Trace Task Force?
 - Where in the budget are the payouts listed?
- **Risk Insurance Fund**
 - What is the balance for the risk insurance fund?

- **Request: Provide the balance of all liability funds**
- **Damages to City Property**
 - Damages to street lights, guard rails, etc. by vehicles – is of concern
 - A fiscal analysis is needed for the cost of the damages!
- **Comptroller's Office**
- **Mail Deliveries**
 - Can we get a system or look into why mail is going to properties where no one lives by the name on the mail being sent?
 - Concern: Folks no longer live in properties where mail is being sent
 - How can the Council help with this initiative?
- **Performance Measures** – there are no performance measures in your budget, why?
- **Lots/Lot Maintenance**
 - More resources are need for the maintenance of the Comptroller's lots; we are getting a lot of calls from the residents
 - **Request: Provide a map or list of the lots under your office**
 - The lots that were taken through tax sales, where are they sitting?
 - Tax Sales Lots versus Mayor and City Council Lots – talk about the difference
- **Homeownership**
 - Comments regarding the importance of homeownership
 - Racisms in black community – is of concern
- **Tax Sales**
 - What is the process for unsold tax sales certificates? What is the Comptroller's role in this process?
- **Real Estate Offices**
 - There are real estate offices in several city agencies; why?

Office of the Inspector General

- **Positions**
 - Explain why the salary for Operation Manager II increased so much
 - Three (3) additional positions; are they already filled?
 - Do you think you will request additional positions in fiscal year 2023? **Answer: Yes**
- **Agency Closeout**
 - To Finance: How do you handle a deficit for any agency? What are the options used to closeout or balance the budget?
 - Talk about OIG budget review process
- **Whistleblower Protection**
 - Comments regarding whistleblower protection
- **Statutory Responsibilities**
 - Walk us through the processes of your office once a complaint is lodged
 - Who responsibility is it when disciplinary measures are warranted for an employee as a result of an investigation?
 - What is the role of the Inspector General's Office? Do you recommend any actions?
- **Working for the People**
 - We work for the people; we look at your office as an enhancement for same
 - Hope that you work with and for all agencies
 - Hope you include others as well as form partnerships
 - Investigations often includes others

- The importance of maintaining healthy partnerships

Department of General Services

- **Mowing Services** – comments pertaining to same
- **Contracts/Projects**
 - What do you consider as being “a small job?”
 - Comments about minority and small businesses
 - Comments about having problems with some contracts
- **City Vehicles**
 - Do you control and replace all city vehicles? **Answer: Yes**
 - Leased vehicles assigned to staff, why can't we use city garages for repairs?
Answer: The vehicles are leased and the city can't work on them. It must be a city vehicle in order for you to take the car to city garages.
- **Solar Panels**
 - Is there any opportunity to start having solar panels on city properties; city buildings; as well as community solar?
 - Solar panels on roofs is a good idea! Are we thinking about any opportunities to improve roofs; such as painting roofs white? Do we have a policy for white roofs? What opportunities are available?
- **Workday System**
 - How is the Department adapting to Workday?

Department of Public Works

- **Street Sweeping**
 - When will street sweeping return? It is a quality of life issue!
 - How many drivers do you need for street sweeping the entire city?
 - Recycling versus Street Sweeping; why did recycling start back up before street sweeping?
 - Concern: Cleanliness of the city
 - Is there a timeline to start full street sweeping?
 - Are we street sweeping in any areas yet?
 - How do we prioritize where to street sweep?
 - Are you planning to connect with the school system about littering?
- **Effective Communication**
 - One key thing in our control is how we communicate with the public
 - What will you do to increase communication with the public and for transparency? (water billing and trash issues)
 - What level of staffing is need for the bulk trash service to start? Do you have an outline plan?
 - What are some of your strategies used to and/or for helping small businesses?
- **Illegal Dumping**
 - Is deeply frustrated over this issue
 - Educating people is important but deeper penalties need to be imposed as well
 - Barriers are needed for known dumping sites! Does DPW have the funds to create the barriers?
 - The long wait time for Haulers is of concern; some eventually dump in alleys. What are your doing to address this issue?
- **CDL Drivers**
 - Is DPW finding it difficult to hire drivers because of the salary?

- The city is underpaying our CDL drivers by approximately 30% compared to other jurisdictions
 - We need to adequately compensate our CDL drivers
 - Is training for CDL drivers completed in house?
 - How long does it take to train a CDL driver? Are you talking about any apprenticeships?
- **Water Billing**
 - How do you plan to manage the accuracy of water billing?
 - What are the measures used for holding people accountable for their performance?
 - A follow-up is needed regarding the agreement between Baltimore city and the surrounding counties; such as the amount city pays versus what surrounding counties pays!
 - People who experience water billing problems can appeal to Circuit Court; where in this process does the Environmental Control Board fit it?
- **Meter Reader Employees**
 - How many of these employees are on leave and for how long?
 - Comment: Over fifty (50) employees stayed home for over nine (9) months while others employees were relocated elsewhere – is of concern
- **Operation/Services**
 - How many divisions/units are not in full service due to COVID?
- **Graffiti Remover**
 - Thanked the Mayor for restoring this service
- **Mowing Services**
 - Comments regarding city's mowing services
- **Employees**
 - Solid Waste Workers have dangerous jobs! Traffic calming is needed
 - What is your plan to increase enforcement and to expand your crews? Having enough human capital to address needs.
 - Higher wages are needed for our front line workers. What are your thoughts on this?
 - Do all of your direct reports live in the city?
 - Have you had any reorganizations lately?
- **Office Moral**
 - Is there anything we can do to build moral?
- **Zero Waste**
 - What are your plans surrounding this issue?
 - What percentage of city residents currently recycle?
 - The rollout of the recycling carts; what will be the processes for the rollout and for educating the public?
 - Trash cans – talk about the backlog.
- **Boarding Vacant Houses**
 - How much of the Community Development Block Grant funding is used for boarding vacant houses?
 - Maintaining vacant properties; is there an update regarding workgroups for same?
- **Water Usage/Billing/Smart Meters**
 - Comment: The cost of water is cheaper in the county than in the city! Why?
 - Are we on track with the Water Affordable and Accountability Act?
 - How many employees are available to deal with water billing complaints?

- When are we going to train people adequately?
 - **Request: Can you submit an update on the smart meters and water billing issues?**
 - Water billing for commercial establishments – What are you doing to resolve overbilling of these establishments?
 - **CHUM Neighborhoods** – How is this program working? What does success look like?
 - **Code Enforcement Unit**
 - Do you believe this unit should be under DPW instead of Housing?
 - **Pesticides** – How do you plan to implement the new law for pesticides?
4. Hearing recess; to reconvene on Friday, June 4, 2021
-

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. Yes, see “red” highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Committee Vote: - Hearing Recessed

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 16, 2021

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022	Bill #: 21-0080
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See hearing Notes					

*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

Thursday, June 3, 2021

9:00 AM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 173 013 4789, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?
MTID=e4e63b13f764cdfcb5b58ae17e9f4f5bc](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4e63b13f764cdfcb5b58ae17e9f4f5bc)

21-0080 - Agency Hearings - Schedule attached online
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

21-0082 **Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022**

For the purpose of approving the budget estimated to be needed for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for operating programs during Fiscal 2022 providing for certification of the approved budget to the State Superintendent of Schools; and providing for a special effective date.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on June 4, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT