

**For Internal Use Only**



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Finance and Performance (FP)* is responsible for matters concerning fiscal oversight throughout the year. FP will improve the Council's understanding of the City's budget and to understand how agencies are performing and delivering city services, in addition to reviewing their spending throughout the year. FP will hold regular hearings on financial information, including, revenue, budgets, and audits. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include:

- Fiscal Oversight
- Budget Process
- Agency Performance
- Quarterly Budget Hearings
- Agency Performance Hearings
- Audit Oversight
- Revenue Certification

**The Honorable John T. Bullock  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023  
3:00 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Legislative Oversight LO21-0003**

**Quarterly Budget Briefings**

**Bureau of Budget and Management Research  
*Fiscal Year 2024 - First (1<sup>st</sup>) Quarter Projection*  
*July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023***

**Capital Budget  
*An Update***

**Baltimore City Public Schools  
*Quarterly Budget Report***

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)**

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair  
John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes

*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

## **WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes

*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)**

Mark Conway – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos

*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

## **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE (FP)**

John Bullock, Chair  
Eric Costello, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzzy” Schleifer  
Danielle McCray  
Phylicia Porter

*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)**

President Nick Mosby, Chair  
All City Council Members

*Staff: Larry Greene (410-396-7215)*

## **EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)**

Robert Stokes – Chair  
John Bullock  
Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence

*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

## **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)**

Danielle McCray – Chair  
John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence

Isaac “Yitzzy” Schleifer

*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

## **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

Isaac “Yitzzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Eric Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence

*Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)*

## **LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
Danielle McCray

*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



**BILL SYNOPSIS**

**Committee:** Finance and Performance

**Legislative Oversight # LO 21-0003**

---

**Quarterly Budget Briefings  
Bureau of Budget and Management Research  
Capital Budget  
Baltimore City Public Schools**

---

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Costello, et al

**Introduced:** January 25, 2021

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose** of calling on the Directors of the Finance Department’s Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR), Capital Budget and the Baltimore City Public School to brief the City Council on how the City’s actual finances compare to its budget projections.

**Effective:** On the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted

**Note:** This Legislative Oversight does not require a committee vote and will remain active until the end of the term.

---

**Agencies Reporting**

Finance – Bureau of Budget and Management Research	PowerPoint Presentation to be shown
Capital Budget	PowerPoint Presentation to be shown
Baltimore City Public Schools	PowerPoint Presentation to be shown

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law**

**Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, 1-6**  
**§ 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.**  
It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plats, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.  
(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)

## Background

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, representative(s) from the Bureau of Budget and Research Management (BBMR), the Planning Department, and Baltimore City Public Schools came before the committee to discuss quarterly projections.

Following are notes from the September 28<sup>th</sup> hearing:

### Major Speakers

- Laura Larsen, BBMR
- Nichole Stewart, Planning (Capital Budget)
- Kristen Ahearn, Planning
- Maryann Cox, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)
- Maureen Gershberg, Baltimore City Public Schools, Capital Budget

### Major Issues Discussed

1. The representatives from BBMR, Capital Budgeting and BCPS all gave a PowerPoint Presentation. Copies are on file. Following are notes from the hearing.
  - BBMR
    - The representative gave a briefing regarding Fiscal Year 2023 Closeout.
    - She also stated that supplemental requests will be forthcoming for same.
  - Capital Budget
    - The Presentation included information about the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023
      - Including Budget Analysis and Expenses/Expenditures
      - Appendix – Listing Capital Projects
  - BCPS
    - Two representatives from the BCPS participated in giving the PowerPoint presentation.
      - One representative focused on Fiscal Year 2023 – Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Quarter Budget Projection
      - The other representative talked about Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Funding, Spending and Requests.
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - BBMR
    - President Mosby stated, “the supplemental requests that will be forthcoming will be assigned to the Finance and Performance Committee and the supplementals submitted during the actual budget season will go to the Ways & Means Committee.
    - Questions:
      - How does your current projection compare to prior years?
      - Overtime
        - The overtime costs when compared to prior years; what was it?  
**Answer: Will research and get back to you (Per Laura Larsen)**
      - Salary Savings
        - What was the amount of savings from vacancies? **Answer: Will research and get back to you (Per Laura Larsen)**
        - Can an analysis of vacant positions be done?
      - What is the end result, revenue minus expenditures?

- Sanitation fees
    - How long have payments been delayed?
  - Workday Issues
    - What other agencies were affected with billing issues?
  - Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success
    - As a result of their deficit, what contracts did they contract out?
    - **Requested by Member McCray: Submit information: a list of the vacant positions that cause the use of contractors.**
  - Agencies who had Surpluses at the end of Fiscal Year 2023
    - Are these same agencies also projecting surpluses in Fiscal Year 2024?
  - Expenditures for maintenance and/or repair for Real Property – talk about this.
  - Comments regarding the cost for snow removal last fiscal year being way under budget.
  - Transfer and Recordation Tax
    - **Requested by Councilmember Ramos: Submit by agency: the amount of surplus revenue received from the Transfer and Recordation Tax.**
  - Capital Budget
    - Question(s)
      - How much was spent on PayGo last fiscal year?
    - New Software
      - When you receive the new software, I would like to be able to capture multi-year projects?
      - On page 16 of the Presentation
        - The Summary of Capital Projects – talk more about these projects and the current conditions of the projects.
      - Systemic versus Historic Projects
        - Talk about this and about the differences.
3. Hearing was called to recess.
  4. Was further study requested? **Yes**
    - See **'red and yellow highlighted'** areas in the Major Issues section above.
  5. On Thursday, December 7, 2023, representatives from BBMR, Capital Budget and the BCPS will come before the committee to present their quarterly budget briefing(s).

---

## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** See PowerPoint Presentations – to be shown during the hearing.

**Information Source(s):** Hearing Notes:

- Notes taken during the September 28, 2023 hearing.

Analysis by: *Marguerite M. Currin*  
 Analysis Date: December 5, 2023

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485