

# CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

 ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

## HEARING NOTES

Bill: 25-0061

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Title: Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2026

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Committee: Budget & Appropriations

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: 5/15/2025

Time (Beginning): 5:10 PM

Time (Ending): 6:55 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Attendance: Approximately 80

Committee Members in Attendance:

Budget & Appropriations Committee:

Danielle McCray (Chair)  
Paris Gray

Issac “Yitzy” Schleifer (Vice Chair)  
Antonio Glover

Sharon Green Middleton

City Council:

Zeke Cohen (President)  
Odette Ramos

Mark Parker  
John Bullock

Ryan Dorsey  
James Torrence

Zac Blanchard  
Mark Conway

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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
Hearing televised 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
Motioned by: .....			
Seconded by: .....			
Final Vote: .....			

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## Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Approximately thirty-seven (37) speakers provided public in-person testimony.

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray and President Cohen gave opening remarks and noted the purpose and rules of Taxpayers' Night.
2. Laura Larsen, Budget Director provided a brief presentation on the City's FY 2026 Budget – see Fiscal Presentation for details
  - FY 26 Total Recommended Budget - \$4.63 billion comprised of both operating and capital
    - Actions include balancing the budget
    - Major Investments– Youth, Public Safety, Clean & Healthy Communities, Equitable Neighborhood Development, and Responsible Stewardship of City Resources
  - Outline of the Opioid Restitution Fund (\$36.7 million)
  - Outline of the State & Federal Resources
  - Budget Timeline: June 26, 2025, Final Day to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
3. Approximately thirty-seven (37) speakers provided public in-person testimony; (each speaker was allocated at least two minutes to speak with the discretion of the Chair to extend time).
4. Some highlighted comments, topics and/or areas of concern are noted below:
  - Pilot Program - Payment in Lieu of Taxes
    - Testimony supporting the pilot program was highlighted
      - Public statements included comments on how increased tax revenue could support different programming in Baltimore City.
  - Resources for Immigrants
    - Support for MIMA
    - Increased funding for immigrants services
    - Need for services, resources, and overall support
    - Language accessibility
    - Resources and support for immigrant students
    - Concerns about Federal cuts and policies
  - Children and Youth
    - Concerns about costs of summer programs
    - Support for increased programming for multilingual summer camps, youthworks positions, and more summer camps for children and youth
    - Increase youth opportunities/concerns for fewer programs and shorter hours
    - Increase funding for BCPSS
    - Baltimore Children and Youth Fund's (BCYF)

- Concerns about funding allocations and finances – requests for an oversight hearing from Council
- Opioid Restitution Fund
  - Support for funding at the BCHD
  - Concerns about the funding available this year for community providers under the Opioid Restitution Fund
  - Ensure funding is available to organizations on the ground
  - Resources for community providers
- BRESCO Contract
  - Support for Zero Waste Infrastructure
  - Concerns about the negative health and environmental impacts on the incinerator
- Public Health Programs
  - Increased funding for public health services with BHCD
  - Support of Opioid Restitution funds to create a division of Overdose Prevention
  - Concerns about cuts to maternal health programs
- Enoch Pratt Library
  - Concerns/support to alleviate shortage of staff
- DPW
  - Concerns about the Sewage Consent Decree
- Training and access to ASL interpreters for the deaf community

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

☐ Yes   ☒ No

**If yes, describe.**

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**Committee Vote: N/A**

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Paroma Nandi, Committee Staff

Date: 5/15/2025

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File