



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0236

Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2023

Committee: Ways and Means  
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello

Hearing Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022  
Time (Beginning): 6:00 PM  
Time (Ending): 8:10 PM  
Location: Board of Estimates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Total Attendance: Approximately 100

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello                      Kristerfer Burnett  
Robert Stokes, Sr.                 Sharon Green Middleton  
Danielle McCray

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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" 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

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Robert (Bob) Cenname, Department of Finance, BBMR
- Approximately twenty-eight (28) citizens, **In-Person Testimony**
- Approximately six (6) citizens, **Virtual Testimony**

## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Costello and President Mosby both gave opening remarks.
2. The representative from BBMR gave a brief overview of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023.
3. Approximately thirty (35) attendees gave oral testimony; 28 in-person and 6 testified virtually (each speaker was allocated at least two minutes to speak). Some highlighted comments, topics and/or areas of concern were:
  - Several speakers were in support of defunding the Police Department. Some reasons stated for same were:
    - Police accountability concerns
    - Increased funding for the police budget – is of concern
    - To help create a Community Trust Fund
    - To invest more in black communities
    - To help remove officers from responding to public issues such as mental health
    - To help address mental health issues
    - To invest more in community safety
  - Comments and/or concerns regarding investing in communities
    - More funding opportunities needed
    - Meeting the needs of the community
    - Jobs, health access and fair housing
    - Equitable neighborhood development
    - Concern: Violence in neighborhoods/communities
    - Concern: Gentrification of neighborhoods
    - Change, change, change is needed
    - More recreation activities and centers for youth
    - More parking spaces needed
    - Immediate jobs for released inmates
    - Cleaner streets, affordable housing and good schools needed
    - Eminent Domain – is of concern
  - Creative Art
    - Need to invest more in Art
    - More investment needed for the city's artist community
  - Mental and Behavioral Crisis
    - More Wellness Programs needed
    - Increased funding needed for Health Care Workers
  - City Pools
    - Proper filtration for same
  - Budget Overview
    - Comment - Was too short; not enough information was provided
  - American Rescue Plan Funding
    - What is left? What is the balance?
  - EMS Vehicles
    - The emergency medical service vehicles should be upgraded
  - Taxpayers' Night – Concern
    - Should be at the beginning of the budget process not at the end!
    - Citizens want a participatory budget process
  - Concern – Need to unionize Walters Art employees
  - More investment in Water and Wastewater treatment

○ *Copies of written testimony received are on file.*

4. President Mosby gave closing remarks and thanked all who participated. He said, "I hope you (residents/public) will continue to participate in the budget process by listening next week when the budget hearings continue."
5. Hearing was called to recess.

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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 31, 2022

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File

# City of Baltimore

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Ways and Means

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Thursday, May 26, 2022

6:00 PM Pressman Board Room, City Hall, 100 Holliday Street,  
2nd Floor, Link: <https://bit.ly/BaltimoreBudget>

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#### 22-0236: Budget Hearings: City Council Taxpayers Night CHARM TV 25

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

- Present** 5 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Robert Stokes Sr.
- Absent** 2 - Ryan Dorsey, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

##### 22-0236

##### **Annual Property Tax - Fiscal Year 2023**

For the purpose of providing a tax for the use of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023; and setting the semiannual payment service charge for that period.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing was called to recess.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**