



HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 21-0062R

**American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings
3rd Quarter Review**

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello
Hearing Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM
Time (Ending): 12:20 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 25

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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

This Resolution will remain open throughout the legislative term – no vote will be conducted, on-going quarterly meetings.

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Christopher Shorter, City Administrator
- Shamiah Kerney, Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programs
- Mara James, Department of Finance

Major Issues Discussed

1. **Director Kerney** gave opening remarks, stated she will go over some of the changes that have occurred since the last quarter and showed a PowerPoint presentation. **A copy is on file.**
2. Chairman Costello asked Director Kerney to clarify the definitions for the following words that are mentioned throughout the PowerPoint presentation; and stated, "it is important that we understand the terminology used. What is the difference between commitment versus obligation?"
 - **Obligation**
 - **Commitments**
 - **Expenditures**
3. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
 - **Questions**
 - How were the federal funds allocated?
 - Slides 9 & 10
 - There are two different amounts listed for Visit Baltimore on each of the two slides, why:
 - There are differences in the amounts listed for MONSE, Civic Baltimore and MOED as well, why:
 - MONSE's work, especially around public safety is huge, can you walk us through what funds are being used for public safety?
 - Are you encouraging city agencies and non-profits to apply for funding?
 - **Revenue Stabilization**
 - Can you talk about this fund? What is the status of the \$130 million?
 - \$50 million was reassigned and this is the first time hearing about the reassignment, when were the funds reassigned?
 - Your breakdown of the ARPA funds, where does the \$50 million fit in?
 - When was the decision made to reduce the funds by \$50 million? **Answer: Per Mara James will research and respond back**
 - Agency projects versus external projects – where does the \$50 million fit in to these projects?
 - **Vaccinations**
 - How many employees received vaccinations? **Answer: 9,870 employees**
 - Did applicable employees get \$1,000 added to their paycheck? How was the \$1,000 allocated?
 - **ARPA Administration (MORP Office)**
 - The \$2,330,871.88 listed on slide 9, is this amount for the entire year? **Answer: This amount is for fiscal year 2022 (12 months)**
 - How many years will the Office exist? **Answer: Until funds are exhausted plus an additional six months thereafter**
 - 16 filled positions:
 - Are they permanent or temp?
 - Why aren't the salaries paid showing up in the presentation?
 - **Non-Profits**
 - When will the non-profits received funding to go to the next level? Will funding be allocated before the end of this fiscal year?

- Is everyone following the same processes? **Answer: Yes**
- Is Sage Wellness a non-profit? **Answer: No**
- Talk about how a business for profit contract versus a non-profit business contract operate differently
- Concern: About transparency when it comes to businesses “for profit”
- Grants
 - There are grants that are going out quickly! How do you assess the accuracy for same?
 - The grants you have already allocated, were all of them non-profits? **Answer: No; twenty-three (23) allocated to date were to non-profits**
- Comments
 - Per City Administrator Shorter:
 - The Mayor’s goals are clear and the MONSE ‘s work aligns with same
 - Per Director Jackson:
 - We are concerned that all business, non-profits and etc. during business with the city are reputable!
- Request(s)
 - Requested by **Councilmember Schleifer:**
 - Submit a report on all contracts the City have with Sage Wellness; to include performance thereof – to Shantay Jackson
- Concern(s):
 - How the Recovery Plan was setup – is of concern
 - Where are you with Housing and other city agencies?
 - We (City Council) ourselves are confused with the process!
 - Our city is in disarray! We want these funds to make a difference even after the funds are exhausted; long after! **Response by Kerney: We are still having on-going conversations with city agencies but \$646 million is not enough money to change the city!**
- Food Insecurity Funding
 - Is more funding going to be placed here?
 - Why aren’t we paying the people in the community who are doing the work distributing the food?
 - I heard food funding is being cut (Per Planning Department) **Per Kerney: is working with Planning to get more funding**
 - How much is the Health Department getting for food insecurity?
 - FEMA gave notice that funds for food insecurity were exhausted, talk about this
 - Funding given to both Planning and Health Departments, why aren’t they combined? Does it not make sense for this program to be run out of the Health Department?
- Water for All
 - Requested by Councilmember Ramos:
 - Would like for MONSE to examine rather or not any of the ARPA funds can pay for Renter’s portion for water in the “Water for All” program

- **Endorsements**
 - Councilmember Ramos
 - Comments regarding her 10 endorsements; now all were selected, What matrixes did you use for your selections?
 - Councilmember Stokes
 - Only two of his endorsements were selected – was disappointed
 - Councilmember Burnett
 - Can you walk us through the processes for how endorsements are selected?
- **Affordable Housing**
 - Suggestion: Maybe sometime in the future when things apply to affordable housing you can reach out with some sort of announcement.

4. Chairman Costello stated, the responses to all requests made at the hearing today should be submitted by May 31, 2022.

5. No public testimony. Hearing called to recess.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. See requests noted in “Yellow” highlighted in the Major Issues Discussed section above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File

Date: May 23, 2022



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Resolution – American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearing – 3 rd Quarter Review	Resolution #: 21-0062R
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PATRICK	WILLIAMS	400 N. HOLLIDAY ST. [MORP] patrick.williams@baltimorecity.gov					
Shamiah	Kerney	MORP					
Sophie	Gebrehiwat	MORP					
Chris Harper		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

Ways and Means

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

10:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

21-0062R

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

21-0062R

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings

For the purpose of calling for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsors: President Nicholas J. Mosby, Eric T. Costello, Sharon Green Middleton, Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Robert Stokes, Sr., Kristerfer Burnett, Odette Ramos, James Torrence, John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen

Hearing called to recess.

ADJOURNMENT