

**For Internal Use Only**



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Ways and Means (WM)* is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. WM will exercise regular oversight of the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include: budget & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021  
10:00 AM**

**VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING**

***Council Resolution #21-0026R***

**Investigative Hearing – COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings**

# 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: Jennifer Coates*

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

Eric Costello, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

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

Mark Conway – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

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

Robert Stokes – Chair  
John Bullock  
Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

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

Danielle McCray – Chair  
John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

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

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Eric Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*



**BILL SYNOPSIS**

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Resolution:** 21-0026R

---

**Investigative Hearing - COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings**

---

**Sponsor:** Councilmembers Porter, Conway, et al

**Introduced:** March 8, 2021

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose of** inviting representatives from the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the City Council on their efforts to support small businesses and economic development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Effective:** Upon enactment.

---

**Agency Reports**

Law Department	<i>Favorable/Comments</i>
Baltimore Development Corporation	<i>Favorable/Comments</i>
Department of Finance	<i>Comments</i>

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law**

**Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Section 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 Tuesday, April 20, 2021 a representative(s) from the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) will come before the committee to discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on the city's economy; to include a discussion regarding how and what BDC has implemented to help small businesses and build the economy.

Representatives from the City's Law and Finance Departments will also be in attendance to participate in the discussion.

---

## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** City Code, Council Resolution 21-0026R, and all agency reports received as of this writing.

---

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin  
Analysis Date: April 15, 2021

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

# **Council Resolution: 21-0026R**

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**SEE ATTACHED**

---

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
DANA P. MOORE, ACTING CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

---

Honorable President and Members  
of the City Council of Baltimore  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 24, 2021

Re: City Council Bill 21-0026R- Investigative Hearing-COVID-19 and Small Business  
Re-openings

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0026R for form and legal sufficiency. This resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the City Council on their efforts to support small businesses and economic development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In general, Art. III, Sec. 9 of the City Charter and Art. 1, Sec. 1-4 gives the City Council authority to call before it, department heads and other City officials to inquire about the operation of City agencies and to investigate complaints and allegations regarding City operations.

Council Bill 21-0026R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request appropriate officials to attend to discuss efforts and measures being taken to assist small businesses in the City during the pandemic.

The Law Department approves Council Bill 21-0026R for form and legal sufficiency as it is a valid method of inviting City officials to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elena DiPietro".

Elena R. DiPietro  
Chief Solicitor

Cc: James Shea, City Solicitor  
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Matthew Stegman, President's Office  
Nikki Thompson, President's Legislative Liaison  
Ashlea Brown, Special Solicitor  
Victor Tervalo, Chief Solicitor  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Avery Aisenstark

---

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

**BRANDON M. SCOTT,**  
Mayor



**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**  
**DANA P. MOORE, ACTING CITY SOLICITOR**  
**100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET**  
**SUITE 101, CITY HALL**  
**BALTIMORE, MD 21202**

---



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2021  
TO: Ways and Means Committee  
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO   
POSITION: Support  
SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. (Resolution) 21-0026R  
Investigative Hearing – COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 21-0026R introduced by Councilmembers Porter, Conway, Bullock, McCray, Ramos, Torrence, Stokes, Middleton, Cohen, Glover.

### **PURPOSE**

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the City Council on their efforts to support small businesses and economic development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **BRIEF HISTORY**

This Resolution will enable BDC representatives to report on assistance provided to Baltimore City businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. BDC's COVID-19 response is comprised of four main components: outreach, information, collaboration, and action. At the outset of the pandemic, BDC launched an outreach survey to assemble information on impacted businesses. This initial survey grew into a formal collaboration with 19 organizations to create a Technical Assistance Network that continues to be accessed by small businesses seeking help on a range of issues, including the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). BDC led the distribution of federal CARES Act and Maryland Relief Act funds related to small businesses. BDC learned from other early grant programs that in order to create an equitable grant, funds must be awarded based on equitable criteria and that funds must not be provided on a *First-come, First-serve* basis. BDC has issued two small business grant rounds and one restaurant grant round (the final fourth round is in the review stage). In total, BDC awarded 1,085 Baltimore businesses totaling approximately \$15 million to date. BDC's work to support small businesses, particularly businesses owned by people of color, has been recognized nationally for its innovation and inclusiveness.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

### **AGENCY POSITION**

The BDC **Supports** City Council Bill (Resolution) 21-0026R.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Clark at [kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com](mailto:kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com).



On behalf of

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennane, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0026R – Investigative Hearing-COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

March 31, 2021

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0026R, Investigative Hearing-COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings, the purpose of which is to invite the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to provide information on efforts to support small businesses and economic development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the national, State, and local economies, with many businesses and workers struggling to adapt to the changing health guidelines and restrictions from federal State, and local authorities. In addition, as COVID-19 has continued, the impact has been felt most by small businesses and low-wage workers. Based on employment data from the Maryland Department of Labor, Baltimore City's leisure and hospitality sector saw a 53% reduction in employment, or 16,279 jobs, in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the second quarter of 2019. In the 2019 State of Downtown report from the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, 94% of businesses surveyed in the downtown area reported being impacted by COVID-19 and 80% of surveyed businesses reported concern about the impact to their operations.

In March 2020, the City received \$103.6 million as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds were used to support costs for the City response to COVID-19, as well as provide community economic support. BDC received \$9.8 million in CARES Act funds for small business support, which provided \$7.5 million in grants to cover a variety of COVID-19 related expenses, \$1.5 million to support the safe re-opening of businesses through Design for Distancing, and \$500,000 in grants to support local manufacturing of personal protective equipment.

Since October 2020, the City has also received nearly \$10.6 million from the State to provide grants specifically to the restaurant industry. BDC also managed this program on behalf of the City, which provided restaurants with grants for operating expenses, infrastructure improvements, and COVID-19 related expenses. The City is expected to receive an additional \$2 million from the State for this purpose and an additional \$50,000 to assist businesses develop online sales and telework infrastructure, for a total of over \$22.4 million distributed to small businesses by BDC since March 2020.

Additional City funded grant programs related to small business include nearly \$10 million in hotel relief managed by Visit Baltimore and \$250,000 for the City's 8 Main Streets organization managed by the Baltimore Civic Fund.

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to any fiscal inquiries.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Natasha Mehu  
Nina Themelis

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0026R  
(Resolution)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmembers Porter, Conway, Bullock, McCray, Ramos, Torrence, Stokes,  
Middleton, Cohen, Glover

Introduced and read first time: March 8, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Baltimore  
Development Corporation

---

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – COVID-19 and Small Business Re-Openings**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief  
4 the City Council on their efforts to support small businesses and economic development in  
5 light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 **Recitals**

7 COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Baltimore’s economy, especially the small  
8 business community. The Baltimore Development Corporation (“BDC”) is the City’s economic  
9 development agency. BDC has led the City’s response and recovery effort with respect to the  
10 economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

11 BDC has strived to deliver an innovative and equitable response to help local business  
12 through the pandemic and has emphasized supporting resident-, women- and Black, Indigenous  
13 and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned businesses. BDC’s efforts have been recognized both  
14 locally and nationally.

15 To date, BDC has awarded over 1,000 small business assistance grants totaling  
16 approximately \$13 million. Sixty-three percent of all small business assistance grants were  
17 awarded to BIPOC-owned businesses; 57% of all small business assistance grants were awarded  
18 to women-owned businesses; and 66% of all small business assistance grants were award to  
19 Baltimore City resident-owned businesses.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

## Council Bill 21-0026R

1 With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, BDC and the Baltimore Small Business Support  
2 Fund (“BSBSF”) partnered to ensure relief resources reached as many businesses as possible and  
3 especially BIPOC-owned businesses in disinvested neighborhoods. This partnership formed the  
4 Baltimore Small Business Technical Assistance Network (“TA Network”), a partnership of 19  
5 organizations coordinated by BDC and funded by the BSBSF coalition of foundations. To date,  
6 the TA Network has more than 1,400 business tracked in its shared database. Sixty percent of  
7 the businesses are BIPOC-owned and 80% of the businesses are sole proprietors or have five or  
8 fewer employees.

9 As BDC addresses the current economic crisis, the agency is also undertaking a robust  
10 economic strategic planning effort. BDC recently released an interim report on its  
11 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy named “Baltimore Together – A Platform for  
12 Inclusive Prosperity”. This effort describes the BDC will take to promote inclusive economic  
13 recovery and growth in the City over the next 5 years.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
15 Council invites representatives from the Baltimore Development Corporation to brief the City  
16 Council on their efforts to support small businesses and economic development in light of the  
17 COVID-19 pandemic.

18 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
19 President and CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Mayor’s Legislative  
20 Liaison to the City Council.