
CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor
Zeke Cohen – Council President



Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director
100 Holliday Street, Room 415
Baltimore, MD 21202

CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

26-0202 – Charter Amendment – Department of Water and Wastewater
26-0201 – Charter Amendment – Parking Benefits District – Local Fund

Hearing Date: 6/17/2026

Hearing Start Time: 01:00 PM

Hearing End Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: 15

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** Ryan Dorsey
 - Zac Blanchard
 - Odette Ramos
 - **Vice Chair** John Bullock
 - Jermaine Jones
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MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- Jeff Hochstetler – Department of Law
 - Matthew Garbark – Department of Public Works
 - Bob Cename – Department of Finance
 - Nina Themelis – Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
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NOTES

- Chair Dorsey began today’s hearing
- Two amendments proposed
 - MOGR
 - Removes provision explicitly providing for the charging of fees related to private water and wastewater services
 - Extraneous language removed
 - DPW
 - Not necessary
 - The amendment was advanced favorably
 - Ramos
 - Previous meeting discussed the word “drain” and its possible relationship to stormwater (not contemplated by the charter amendment)
 - Law department suggested there may be implications by removal of the word

- Still have work to determine where stormwater goes
 - Amendment reinserts the word “drain” and explicitly notes that stormwater may be governed by ordinance
 - DPW
 - The impetus for the charter language were the utilities that have regional roles
 - There is concern with comingling city and regional utilities
 - Assures that stormwater will be figured out
 - CW Ramos
 - Stormwater *should* be treated regionally
 - Law
 - Removing the word drain is not a clear indication of intent
 - In code the Director of DPW has authority over stormwater mediation fees
 - Drain is not dispositive but substantively moving generic language may be ambiguous over whether it includes stormwater
 - CM Blanchard
 - Details ought to be in the ordinance
 - Vice Chair Bullock
 - If we don’t move this amendment, it is still not specified
 - Chair Dorsey
 - If we don’t specify, either agency could assume or be assigned responsibility
 - DLR
 - Any authorities not assigned to an agency may be assigned to any executive office or bureau
 - Chair Dorsey
 - Inclined to keep this bill simple to make clear that there is a break between water and wastewater and other city services
 - CW Ramos – would like to retain “drains” if nothing else
 - Chair Dorsey – understand individual words to have unique intent
 - The amendment was not voted on
- The bill was moved favorable as amended.

Hearing Packet in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A
Attendance Sheet in bill file?----- YES NO N/A
Vote Record in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A
Agency reports read? ----- YES NO N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? ----- YES NO N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file?----- YES NO N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A

Notes by: Ethan Navarre
 Notes Date: 6/17/2026

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