

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO22-0019

Quarterly Legislative Oversight Hearing - Department of Public Works

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: November 8, 2023

Time (Beginning): 10:30 AM

Time (Ending): 11:25 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey
James Torrence Phylicia Porter Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Table with 4 columns: Question, YES, NO, N/A. Rows include Bill Synopsis in the file?, Attendance sheet in the file?, Agency reports read?, Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?, Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?, Evidence of notification to property owners?, and Final vote taken at this hearing?.

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Richard Luna (Interim Director, the Department of Public Works)
Deepti Modha (Chief Administrative Officer, the Department of Public Works)
Darnell Ingram (General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, the Department of Public Works)
Yvonne Moore-Jackson (Deputy Bureau Head for Solid Waste)
Paul Sayan (Acting Bureau Head, the Bureau of Water and Wastewater)
Latoya Curtis (Acting Chief of Staff, the Department of Public Works)

Major Issues Discussed

1. **Implementation of Weekly Recycling:** The Department of Public Works (DPW) discussed its plans to implement weekly recycling starting in the first part of 2024. They expressed gratitude for the support received from the Mayor and his administration, including additional staff and the procurement of trucks.
2. **Projects at Ashburn and Druid Lake Reservoirs:** Updates were provided on ongoing projects at Ashburn and Druid Lake Reservoirs. These projects were slated for completion, with Ashburn expected to be finished by the end of November and Druid Lake by the end of December.
3. **Consent Decree with MDE and Bluewater Baltimore:** DPW negotiated a consent decree with the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and Bluewater Baltimore regarding the wastewater treatment plants. This consent decree was scheduled for approval at the Board of Estimates and court approval. Compliance with the consent decree was recognized as a significant achievement.
4. **Staffing Levels:** The Chief Administrative Officer discussed the overall vacancy rate for the DPW, focusing on staffing levels in the Solid Waste and Water/Wastewater Bureaus. Efforts to fill these vacancies, particularly those related to weekly recycling and CDL2 positions, were addressed.
5. **Water Billing and Promise Pay:** DPW provided updates on the Water for All program, including the number of approved homeowners and tenants, the total approved dollars, and the number of applications by ZIP code and council districts. They also discussed the Promise Pay program for delinquent water bill payment plans.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. Councilmember Torrance expressed concerns about the Office of Engineering and Construction within DPW and requested a formal oversight hearing specifically for this office. He raised issues related to staffing, safety violations, and inefficiencies in projects. He requested that the leadership team of this office and inspectors be present at the hearing.
2. Councilman Conway requested accountability for contractors to ensure quality work and maintenance after projects are completed.
3. Councilman Schleifer requested information on the resumption of weekly recycling and a timeline for sharing all correspondence regarding the deliberation on restarting weekly recycling.
4. Councilwoman Porter requested a Standard Operating Procedure for contract management and project timelines, focusing on major projects spanning more than one year.
5. Councilman Torrence requested information on amending the bids to score contractors based on past performance and failures.
6. Councilman Schleifer requested an Excel spreadsheet detailing the counts of different size water meters per Council District.

7. Councilman Schleifer asked about the status of procuring smaller street sweeping trucks for bike lanes and coordination between DOT and DPW.
 8. Councilman Schleifer inquired about the purpose and assignments of Dr. Mitchell, the previous director and requested to review his contract.
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Deontre Hayes

Committee Staff: Deontre L. Hayes
Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

Date: November 9, 2023



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight - Quarterly Legislative Oversight Hearing - Department of Public Works	LO22-0019
Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology	Chair: Danielle McCray
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023	Time: 10:01 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
Richard	WNA	DPW					
Latoya	Curtis	DPW					
Paul	Sayan	DPW					
Hilary	Ruby	Law					
Nina	Thelma	Mayor's office					
Richard	Deepti	DPW Interim Director DPW CAD					
Latoya	Curtis	DPW COS					
Paul	Sayan	DPW Acting Bur. Head W/WW					
Yvonne	Moore-Jackson	DPW Solid Waste Dep. Bur. Head					
Darnell	Marco	DPW General Counsel					
Anthony	Merrick Mills	DPW DPW Customer Advocacy Office					
Sophia	Hosain	DPW Solid Waste - Waste Diversion					
Meghan	Resler	DPW "Chief"					
Yolanda	Cason	DPW "Chief"					

*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

4730 Marcia Collins DPW Office of Legislative Affairs



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight - Quarterly Legislative Oversight Hearing - Department of Transportation	LO22-0027
Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology	Chair: Danielle McCray
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



		What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
		For	Against	Yes	No
Testify					

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email
Clea	Baumhofer	DOT Traffic clea.baumhofer@baltimorecity.gov
Hilary	Ruley	Law
Liam	Davis	DOT
Nina	Tholenis	Mayor's Office

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City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Health, Environment, and Technology

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

10:01 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2349 948 4896, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=mb827c5a3bf4a0074a7a54874b0dee609](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=mb827c5a3bf4a0074a7a54874b0dee609)

Legislative Oversight: LO22-0019

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Ryan Dorsey, Phylicia Porter, James Torrence,
and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Absent 1 - John T. Bullock

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO22-0019 **Quarterly Legislative Oversight Hearing - Department of Public Works**

For the purpose of calling for quarterly oversight hearings for the Department of Public Works regarding agency operations, staffing, safety of fleet, facilities, and equipment, and other responsibilities to improve transparency and accountability in serving the residents of Baltimore City and others.

Recessed

ADJOURNMENT