

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
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HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO 23-0033

Local Control of the Baltimore Police Department

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Chaired by: Councilman Mark Conway

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Time (Beginning): 5:00PM

Time (Ending): 7:00PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 95 in-person
Approximately 25 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Mark Conway, Kristerfer Burnett, Zeke Cohen, Eric T. Costello, Odette Ramos

Table with 3 columns: Question, yes, no, n/a. Rows include Bill Synopsis in the file?, Attendance sheet in the file?, Agency reports read?, Video or audio-digitally recorded?, Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?, Evidence of notification to property owners?, Final vote taken at this hearing?

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Dana Moore, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Elena DiPietro, Law Department
Nina Thelemis, Mayor's Office
Andrew Smullian, Baltimore City Police Department
Ashiah Parker, Local Control Advisory Board
Ray Kelly, Local Control Advisory Board
Molly Amster, Jews United for Justice

Public Testimony

- o Caitlin Goldblatt
 - o Shorty Davis
 - o Lydia Walter-Rodriguez
 - o Toby Ditz
 - o Adiena Britt
 - o Sergio Espana, ACLU
 - o Joan Floyd
 - o Christina Roth, NAACP
 - o Rob Ferrell, Organizing Black
 - o Bill Bleich
 - o Zoey Howell-Bren
 - o Andre Cosby
 - o Cee – testified virtually
 - o Daniel Levine – testified virtually
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Conway gave opening remarks. He talked about the history of the control of the Police Department and stated:
 - o Baltimore City controlling our Police Department is the will of the voters
 - o We do not want to further delay the transfer of authority; we know what our voters feel about the transfer of control!
 - o I don't understand why we still need so much more time!
2. The representative from the Office of Equity and Civil Rights talked about the role and/or duties of the Local Control Advisory Board. She talked about upcoming legislation in Annapolis, such as: Senate Bill 758, House Bill 853 and House Bill 975. She also stated that Annapolis is trying to come up with a "blended bill," as well. Legislative power must transfer from State to City in year 2023 not 2024! And we need time to prepare to take on the transfer and duties of the Department, she said.
3. Chairman Conway stated he was glad to see the bills. He asked where does the Advisory Board stand on the legislation in Annapolis? Which bills does the Board support and why?
4. Ray Kelly, a member of the Advisory Board talked about some of the language in HB 853 and SB 786; quoting some of the wording in same. We are focusing on the will of the people/voters and want control removed from the State and passed on to the City.
5. Chairman Conway stated more time is needed to do analysis for matters such as: fiscal, legal and other challenges. Currently the city can't write laws regarding Baltimore City Police Department; this need to be changed; only the State can do same. This matter need to be addressed before the session in Annapolis ends; action needs to be taken now! He asked, "Is it true the City must change certain parts of the City Charter when the transfer of power occurs? What are some of the challenges that is preventing you from coming up with a report? He asked the representative from the Law Department to talk more about where the city is with "legislative authority."

6. Several committee/councilmembers asked questions and gave remarks and/or stated concerns. Some highlights from same were:
- o Comments:
 - Don't understand why we still need so much more time
 - Still don't understand why we can't move forward with the June 1st timeline! Sometimes you just have to move!
 - We are urging the Administration to support the June 1st date
 - The hoops we as a Council have to jump in order to get things done within the Police Department – is concerning
 - Comments regarding Article II – Section 27 of the City Charter
 - There are several inefficiencies within the Police Department because we don't have authority to make change
 - It seems like its been so much discussion, now is the time to act! To set us up for success!
 - o Questions and Concerns:
 - Does the Council have to take additional actions to critique our laws?
 - Current laws and possible changes – ask for clarification
 - Have the topic of local control come up during the consent decree process?
 - We need to move as expeditiously as possible to transfer control; has there been a change in the Administration's posture in the transfer of control?
 - o Community Engagement
 - Comments regarding the importance of community input
 - Is any consideration given for community input?
7. Fourteen (14) people testified; 12 in person and 2 virtually. Some highlighted comments were:
- o Supports restoring local control of the Police Department
 - o Need Police oversight and reform
 - o Comments regarding the Johns Hopkins Police Force
 - o Supports related bills in Annapolis
 - o Concern: "table of justice"
 - o We don't need any more feedback; the people have spoken!
 - o We (the citizens of Baltimore City) don't deserve this delay!
8. Chairman Conway stated, "Who have the authority right now if not the City nor State?" Hearing called to recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: February 27, 2023

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight – Local Control of the Baltimore Police Department	Bill #: LO22-0033
Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations	Chair: Mark Conway
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023	Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caitlin	Goldblatt	1210 Saint Paul St. 3A caitlin.goldblatt@gmail.com	✓	info.			✓
Shirley	Davis	Bellmore 4 Bloc	✓				
Ray	Kelly	Citizens Policing Project	✓				
Lydia	Walter-Rodriguez	CASA / Baltimore City Resident	✓				
Toby	DITZ	JUFT Toby.ditz@juftedll	✓	INFO			
Adriana	Britt	Old Harford Rd 21214	✓	✓			✓
SERGIO ESPANA	ESPANA	ACLU	✓	✓			
JOAN	FLOYD	2828 N. HOWARD ST 21218	✓				

*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



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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Krissy	Roth	NAACP LDF	✓				
Sergio	Espana	ACLU MD / City Resident District 7	✓				
Rob	Ferrell	ORANGE NE BACK DISTRICT 6	✓				
Danielle	BROWN	Donnell Justice Fighters	✓				
Dee	Free	DONNELL ROCHESTER	✓				
Abigail	Cocke	abby.cocke@gmail.com	✓				
Bill	Bleich	brook.farm@verizon.net	✓				

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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tracy</i>	<i>Arnold Braun</i>	<i>1001 West Pratt St. Arnoldbraun@gmail.com</i>	✓		✓		
<i>Ron</i>	<i>Ron</i>	<i>1604 West Pratt St TheKidToDihoman101@gmail.com</i>	✓		✓		
<i>Andre</i>	<i>Cosby</i>	<i>6887 Park Avenue</i> <i>CPP Baltimore</i> <i>Costcaretr@gmail.com</i>	✓				

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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marilyn	Carlisle	SURJ		✓			
Cindy	Camp	SURJ		✓			
DANIEL	LEVINE	HINEN ✓					
	DeStefano	SURJ		✓			✓
Yael	Haradari-Ley						
Angela	Gale						
Liz	Simon-Higgs	SURJ - Standing Up for Racial Justice					
Rianna	Eckel	SURJ					

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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arlene	Ogurick	333 E. 30th St 21218		✓			

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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ralph	Moore	3015 Guilford Ave 21218					
Leslie	Parker Blythe	BPD					
Kyle	Tilley	Boston & Port					
Ashiah	Parsons	P.O. BOX 12825					
MARK	MARTIN	1716 Bolt St					
John	Wesley	7 East Redwood St BALT.					
Drew	CRAIG	SURJ					
Bonnie Weissberg		1704 Mt. Washington Ct., #11 Baltimore 21209		✓			✓

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City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Safety and Government Operations

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

5:00 PM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2331 420 8083, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m85bdd4b26b35a0a2c6ecb3af18aa22c1)
MTID=m85bdd4b26b35a0a2c6ecb3af18aa22c1

Legislative Oversight: LO23-0033

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Mark Conway, Kristerfer Burnett, Zeke Cohen, Eric T. Costello, and Odette Ramos

Absent 2 - Antonio Glover, and Phylicia Porter

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO23-0033

Local Control of the Baltimore Police Department

For the Purpose of reviewing the legislation currently before the local control board in Annapolis, to allow community response, and to provide a general overview of the process and procedure that the board plans to move forward with regarding implementation of the above mentioned legislation.

Hearing called to recessed.

ADJOURNMENT