



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0036R

Informational Hearing - Avoiding an Eviction Crisis

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: July 13, 2021

Time (Beginning): 2:15 PM

Time (Ending): 4:55 PM

Location: Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: ~85

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey Antonio Glover Robert Stokes Odette Ramos

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Ramos		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Dorsey		
Final Vote:	Favorable with amendment		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Councilmember Odette Ramos, Sponsor
- Ms. Hilary Ruley, Law Department
- Mr. Robert Cename, Department of Finance

- Ms. Tisha Edwards, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success
 - Ms. Catalina Rodriguez-Lima, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
 - Ms. Alice Kennedy, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Ms. Janet Abrahams, Housing Authority of Baltimore City
 - Mr. Matt Hill, Public Justice Center
 - Ms. Carolyn Ott, Fair Housing Action Center
 - Ms. Kathy Howard, Maryland Multi-Housing Association
 - Ms. Julia Saramiento, Latinx Economic Development Center
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Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Middleton opened the meeting and read the resolution into the record. She also read names of organizations that have submitted communications regarding the bill.
2. Councilwoman Ramos explained the purpose of the resolution. She pointed out that problems leading to evictions existed prior to the pandemic. She emphasized the need to convene representatives to share information and make recommendations to battle evictions.
3. Mr. Robert Cenname noted that the City has received a myriad of funding sources for eviction prevention and rental assistance. Allocation have been made and more funding is expected. The total amount of funding received from federal, state and local sources is \$37.8 million. The City also seeks reimbursements for the cost of sheltering the homeless during the pandemic.
4. Ms. Tisha Edwards shared a presentation about how the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS), and Community Action Partnership is addressing evictions. She emphasized that the issues associated with battling evictions are part of a national crisis. Major points made during her presentation are outlined in MOCFS’s agency report. The Department of Justice issued guidance to state courts to leverage eviction diversion strategies. Baltimore City Community Action Partnership (in MOCFS) partners with Homeless Services to administer the City’s eviction prevention program. MOCFS is also in partnership with United Way for handling bulk back-rent, relocations and case management. MOCFS also works with South East CDC & CASA de Maryland, Public Justice Center and other City agencies. The City must approach eviction issues from multiple perspectives such as the re-opening of businesses, creation of jobs, schooling, day care and affordable housing.
5. Councilman Glover would like for MOCFS to provide district demographics. Ms. Edwards will work on mapping and providing the data. He also explained how Bill 21-0031 Landlord-Tenant – Lease Renewals will assist those in need.
6. Ms. Catalina Rodriguez-Lima spoke about the how the Mayor’s Office of Immigration Affairs (MIMA) has assisted with rental assistance. Major points of her discussion are outlined in MIMA’s agency report. She emphasized multilingual messaging and accessibility, communications, and outreach.
7. Ms. Alice Kennedy spoke about how the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is addressing eviction. DHCD is implementing the Right to Counsel legislation. Major points made during her presentation are outlined in DHCD’s agency report.

8. Ms. Janet Abrahams explained that the Housing Authority of Baltimore City is regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Major points of her testimony are outlined in HABC’s agency report.
9. Councilmember Middleton asked panelists if there is a concise list outlining federal, state and local resources. Ms. Tisha Edwards indicated that she could compose such a list. Nina Themelis was asked to secure the list for the committee.
10. Mr. Matt Hill provided written testimony emphasizing that the City should scale up efforts to find remedies for eviction issues because the moratoriums will be lifted soon, as well as expand the scope of eviction prevention.
11. Ms. Carolyn Ott testified how her organization is assisting those in need. The City’s new eviction program and funding is invaluable, as it prevents tenants from losing their homes. She believes the City’s efforts would be more beneficial if services are extended until December 2022. Outreach is key to assisting the needy.
12. Ms. Kathy Howard shared information about the Maryland Multi Housing Association and how landlords are assisting delinquent residents. She noted that assistance for delinquent tenants demands good communications and follow through. She also emphasized that creations of policies and programs should include housing providers.
13. Ms. Julia Saramiento provided informant about her organization, Latinx Economic Development Center. She emphasized the impact of the pandemic on the Latino people.
14. The committee listened to public testimony.
15. The committee approved an amendment for the bill.
16. The committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably with amendment.
17. The hearing was adjourned.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair:..... Yea
 John Bullock: Yea
 Mark Conway: Yea
 Ryan Dorsey: Yea
 Antonio Glover:..... Yea
 Odette Ramos: Yea
 Robert Stokes:..... Absent

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

Date: July 14, 2021