

For Internal Use Only



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Committee on Finance and Performance (FP) is responsible for matters concerning fiscal oversight throughout the year. FP will improve the Council's understanding of the City's budget and to understand how agencies are performing and delivering city services, in addition to reviewing their spending throughout the year. FP will hold regular hearings on financial information, including, revenue, budgets, and audits. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include:

- Fiscal Oversight
- Budget Process
- Agency Performance
- Quarterly Budget Hearings
- Agency Performance Hearings
- Audit Oversight
- Revenue Certification

**The Honorable John T. Bullock
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
3:01 PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Resolution #21-0062R

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearing

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: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)

Eric Costello, Chair
Kristofer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray
Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Robert Stokes

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)

Mark Conway – Chair
Kristofer Burnett
Zeke Cohen
Erick Costello
Antonio Glover
Phylicia Porter
Odette Ramos

Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

Finance and Performance (FP)

John Bullock, Chair
Eric Costello, Vice Chair
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Danielle McCray
Phylicia Porter

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)

Robert Stokes – Chair
John Bullock
Zeke Cohen
Antonio Glover
Sharon Green Middleton
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence

Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)

Danielle McCray – Chair
John Bullock
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer

Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair
Kristofer Burnett
Mark Conway
Eric Costello
Sharon Green Middleton
Odette Ramos
James Torrence

Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)

Eric Costello, Chair
Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Robert Stokes

Danielle McCray

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Finance and Performance

Resolution: 21-0062R

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings

Sponsor: Council President Mosby, et al

Introduced: September 13, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of calling for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective: Hearings to be held on a quarterly basis; no vote required; Resolution will remain in committee the entire Council Session/Term.

Background

Council Resolution 21-0062R was reassigned **from** the Ways and Means Committee **to the newly formed** Finance and Performance Committee on **September 18, 2023**.

The Ways and Means Committee held **its last oversight hearing** on **Tuesday, August 9, 2022**; *fourth quarter review*.

History – Hearings Held

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – Office Structure and Program Overview

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 – 1st Quarterly Review

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – 2nd Quarterly Review

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – 3rd Quarterly Review

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 – 4th Quarterly Review

Following are notes taken during the last the hearing held; August 9, 2022:

Major Speaker

Christopher Shorter, City Administrator
Shamiah Kerney, Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

Major Issues Discussed

1. **Then Director Kerney** gave opening remarks and showed a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:

- Questions
 - Do you and/or how do you report the expenditures by category to the Treasurer?
 - On the Slide shown for "Comparison to Other Cities"
 - The data is only through April 21st!
 - Is the data available through July 31, 2022? And if not, when do you expect the data to be available?
 - Committed Funds
 - How much has been allocated to date to help restore city services?
- Clean Core Program
 - Can you talk about this Program and funding for same?
 - Was any other funding allocated besides to this Program? **Answer: Per Chris Shorter, will submit a list sometime in the future**
 - Talk about your recruitment efforts and training for workers employed in this Program
 - It is my understanding that \$15 million dollars in funding was allocated for the Clean Core Program to clean up fifteen (15) neighborhoods; talk about this.
 - \$15 million dollars is a lot of money but neighborhoods are not getting adequate curbside pickup!
 - We need to get to the core root of this problem(s)
 - Don't understand how the \$15 million allocated will help with city services past the next year!
 - **Per Mr. Shorter: we are giving DPW the funds needed to perform their job.**
- Intersection Workers/Squeegee Workers
 - In relation to the conversations surrounding our intersection workers; where are you with funding to getting jobs for them? (Employment Development?)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - Have DPW received funding? **Answer: Yes, \$10 million**
- Northwest Transfer Station
 - A committee member talked about some of the challenges the employees are experiencing at the Station
 - Concerned about illegal dumping and long wait lines at the Station

- Another committee member agreed with the above statement(s), “the safety issues; including other issues there need to be looked at; especially when it comes to small haulers.”
 - The problems there are increasing!
 - Our residents have to look at illegal dumping(s) on a daily basis in some neighborhoods – correcting these problems must be a priority!
- Will any funding go towards a new Eastside transfer station? **Answer: No**
- Recreation and Parks
 - Glad the salaries have been raised for the Rec and Parks employees
 - However, Rec and Parks need more funding!
- Jobs for Youth and Returning Citizens
 - A committee member stated, “What kind of jobs can we get for our youth, and not just jobs where they clean alleys?”
 - How about landscaping jobs for the youth and returning citizens?
 - The possibility of giving grants to these type businesses (landscaping), whereas they will hire and train the youth and returning citizens!
- Funding for Forestry, Roads and Transportation
 - Funding is needed for:
 - Forestry – more trees need to be planted; especially with the issue of climate change
 - Our Forestry Division have a six (6) months backlog for tree trimming – is of concern
 - Broadway median strip – those trees on that strip have never been trimmed
 - Will funding be allocated for additional equipment needed for removing tree stumps?
 - Our streets are in dire need of repairs
 - It’s the simple things that need to be prioritized!
- Infrastructure Investment Act
 - The federal infrastructure program
 - Do you have any idea how much funding the city will receive?
Answer: No, not yet
 - How will you establish and/or decide where the funding will be allocated?
 - Leverage and/or matching dollars -how does that work or is there already funding in the budget for same?
 - Will the council members be a part of the process?
 - Will any Resolutions, letters or etc. be needed from the council?
 - We want to be involved!
- Water/Wastewater
 - Do you have a breakdown of how much will be allocated to our water system?
 - How is the new office thinking about leveraging funds for wastewater and other city services and/or structure? What are your strategies?
 - Have you thought about staffing for the construction sites? **Answer: Yes**
 - Comment(s)
 - We as a Council want to make sure proper staffing are at those sites.

- Broadband and Digital Equity Office – Relocation
 - How does this relocation affect the ARPA Office?
- Contractors
 - Timely payments to contractors – is of concern
 - Checking the worksites of the contracts for efficiency and etc. are needed
- New Office for Older/Senior Population
 - Creating an office for older adults is needed and we are taking this matter very serious; creating a new office!
 - A separate office is needed
 - Funds are needed specifically for a new office and is now giving you full notice!
 - We must work together and the older adults in our city want a new office!
 - We must give the help and assistance needed to our sixty (60) years and older population!
- Revenue Replacement
 - What does this mean? Talk about this!
 - Talk about some of the different categories
- Training for Grantees
 - Where are you with the training?
 - Do you know how many have already signed up for training? **Answer: 76**
- Funding Status
 - Can you go over what is committed to date and how much is left?
- City Services
 - Restoring core city services is of concern
 - Still frustrated and have been trying to order for quite some time shades and swings for a park in district

3. No public testimony. Hearing was called to recess.

4. On Thursday, September 28, 2023, the Finance and Performance Committee will hold the next oversight hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Note taken during the August 9th hearing.

Marguerite M. Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
 Analysis Date: September 25, 2023

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0062R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Mosby and Councilmembers Costello, Middleton, McCray, Conway, Schleifer, Stokes, Burnett, Ramos, Torrence, Bullock, Cohen

Introduced and read first time: September 13, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means Committee

Reassigned to Finance + Performance Committ on 9/18/23

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, City Administrator, Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement
4 and management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State
5 and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal
6 task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7 **Recitals**

8 The COVID-19 global pandemic has had devastating economic consequences – pushing
9 individuals and families further into poverty, hurting local economies, forcing families to make
10 tough decisions regarding their basic needs, and straining the budgets of local governments.
11 American Rescue Plan (“ARP”) funding can help stabilize local businesses, provide critical
12 investments, and address systemic inequalities. These funds represent a historic opportunity to
13 support the City's efforts in addressing historic inequities and promoting inclusive economic
14 growth.

15 Therefore, these funds must be spent equitably and prudently to improve the lives of
16 historically neglected communities in Baltimore City and residents most impacted by COVID-19.
17 It is the duty of the City Council to ensure that the community is aware of what investments
18 federal funds are supporting and how funds are being used to support vulnerable City residents.
19 Through ARP funding, the City has the opportunity to address long-time challenges and
20 disparities that have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

21 The Council must ensure that information is made publicly available regarding how ARP
22 funds are being spent, how many jobs are being created or preserved through the use of the funds,
23 where investments are being made, and how the funds are advancing equity and addressing
24 systemic inequities. Quarterly oversight hearings will help ensure that the Mayor's Office of
25 Recovery Programs, agency charged with the City's recovery-plan spending, clearly details the
26 goals of ARP expenditures, allocates funds to projects that alleviate the negative economic
27 impacts of COVID-19, addresses inequities, administers funds in a timely manner, dutifully
28 tracks spending, and provides spending statements to the public.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 21-0062R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
2 Council calls for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and
3 management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State and
4 Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of
5 responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Chief Recovery officer of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, the Chair of the Community
8 Oversight Taskforce Commissioners, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.