

**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

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.