



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 24-0601

Property Taxes - Special Rate for Vacant and Abandoned Property

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Eric Costello
Hearing Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024
Time (Beginning): 10:10 AM
Time (Ending): 11:10 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:
Robert Stokes Isaac Schleifer
Eric Costello Sharon Middleton

Bill Synopsis in the file? YES NO N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? YES NO N/A
Agency reports read? YES NO N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?..... YES NO N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? YES NO N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? YES NO N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? YES NO N/A
Motioned by: **Councilman Costello**
Seconded by:..... **Vice President Middleton**
Final Vote: **Favorable**

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Odette Ramos, Councilmember, 14th District
- Michael Moiseyev, Director of Finance
- Scott Davis, Chief of Staff, DHCD
- Carla Nealy, Chief, Bureau of Revenue Collections
- D.Robert Enten
- Clifford Grambo

- Mike Posko, Habitat for Humanity
- Claudia Wilson Randall
- Evan Richards, MD Bank Association

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Costello and Councilmember Ramos gave opening remarks. Councilmember Ramos noted that the focus of the bill is to not get money, but allow more vacant properties to go into receivership.
2. Chairman Costello went over the agency reports with agency representatives for the bill.
3. Director Moiseyev explained the finance’s position and gave additional clarification. It was noted that they think the bill will be revenue-neutral, which is why they have a neutral position.
4. Chief of Staff Davis went over their favorable position on the bill and gave additional context. It was noted that the City has 13,108 vacant buildings, and they see this bill not as revenue-inducing, but as a method to motivate owners.
5. Councilmember Stokes asked how can sending “significant letters’ to owners of vacant be impactful. Chairman Costello explained the legislative intent of the bill – the hope is there will be several notices via tax bills, newspapers, water bills, etc. DHCD noted that it will be a multi-faceted approach.
6. Councilmember Stokes asked about contact to owners living outside of the City. Chairman Costello noted that DHCD will do more meaningful notices.
7. Chairman Costello asked about notices to banks and mortgage companies who hold mortgages. Chief Nealy noted they will have campaigns and have relationships with the banks and companies.
8. Councilmember Ramos and Finance discussed lien release for those good faith redevelopments, but more precise policy needs to be hashed out.
9. Councilmember Ramos and DHCD discussed hiring a navigator to help those residents who purchased rehabbed homes where the previous owners did not have the necessary permits.
10. Councilmember Schleifer and DHCD discussed the new permit liaison, and ongoing issues with the permit offices that constituents face. Chairman Costello noted that DHCD to send an introduction email to the Council on the new permit liaison.
11. Councilmember Schleifer asked DHCD to provide data on call rates in the permit office.
12. Various members of the public signed up to testify.
13. Vote taken; Motion passed Favorable
14. Hearing concluded.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

Committee Vote:

E. Costello: Yea
 K. Burnett: Absent
 R. Dorsey: Absent
 D. McCray: Absent
 S. Green Middleton: Yea

I. Schleifer: Yea
R. Stokes, Sr.: Yea

Niya N. Garrett

Niya N. Garrett, Committee Staff

Date: December 11, 2024

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Ordinance Property Taxes - Special Rate for Vacant and Abandoned Property	Council Bill #: 24-0601
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric Costello
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024	Time: 10:00 AM
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D. R. BELT	ENTEN	1001 FLEET ST BALTIMORE MD 21202	✓	✓	with AMENDS	✓	
CLIFFORD	GRAMBO	248 S COLLINGTON AVE BALTIMORE, MD 21231	✓	✓			
MIKE	POSKO	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	✓	✓			
CLAUDIA	WILSON HANDELL	Community Developer Network of MD	✓	✓			
EVAN	PRODRONDS	MD Bankers Association 186 Duke of Gloucester St Annapolis MD 21401	✓	✓	w/ AMENDS		

*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