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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee (BA) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Danielle McCray
Chairwoman**

**PUBLIC HEARING
FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025
BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Bill 25-0060

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

**AGENCY BUDGET HEARINGS
DAY THREE (3)**

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Paris Gray
Staff: *Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Budget and Appropriations

Bill: 25-0060

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Day Three (3) – Agency Budget Hearings

Sponsor: President Cohen at the request of the Administration (Department of Finance)
Introduced: May 12, 2025

Purpose:

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2026 year.

Effective: Beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Law

Article VI – Board of Estimates of the City Charter outlines the rules and regulations which pertains to the budget schedule.

§ 3. Fiscal year; Budget schedule.

- (a) Fiscal year. The fiscal, budget, and accounting year of the City shall begin on the first day of July and end on the thirtieth day of June in every year unless otherwise provided by law.
- (b) Notice and hearing. At least thirty days prior to the adoption by the Board of Estimates of a proposed Ordinance of Estimates the Board shall make public the Director of Finance's recommended operating budget, the Planning Commission's recommended capital budget and long-range capital improvement 11/11/18 -147- ART. VI, § 4 BALTIMORE CITY CHARTER program, and the reports of the Director of Finance and Planning Commission on these documents. Thereafter, the Board shall hold public hearings at which members of the City Council, heads of municipal agencies, and citizens shall have the opportunity to appear before the Board to speak for or against the inclusion of any appropriation in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.
- (c) Submission to Council. The Board of Estimates shall submit to the City Council the proposed Ordinance of Estimates for the next fiscal year at least forty-five days before the beginning of that fiscal year.
- (d) Adoption by Council. The City Council shall have at least forty days after receipt of the Board's proposed Ordinance of Estimates to enact an Ordinance of Estimates. The City Council shall adopt an

Ordinance of Estimates at least five days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year to which it is applicable if the Board of Estimates submits its proposed Ordinance of Estimates within the period prescribed by Section 3(c).

Background

On **Wednesday, May 28, 2025**, the Budget and Appropriations Committee held **DAY ONE** of the budget hearings, whereas several agency representatives came before the committee/councilmembers to discuss his/her budget.

On **Thursday, May 29, 2025**, the Budget and Appropriations Committee will hold **DAY TWO** of the budget hearings.

On **Friday, May 30, 2025**, the Budget and Appropriations Committee will reconvene for **DAY THREE** of the budget hearings.

Attached is:

- * *Budget Scheduled for Day Three and the location of those agencies in Budget Books.*
- * *Background and/or All about the agencies*

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Charter, Budget Books - Agency Detail – Volume 1 and II – Board of Estimates Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2026 and Council Bills 24-0521 and 25-0060.

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
Analysis Date: May 23, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

ABOUT AGENCIES, FUNDS, AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS

BUDGET HEARINGS - DAY THREE – FRIDAY, May 30, 2025

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Board of Liquor License Commissioners
 - Volume1, Page 359
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Baltimore Convention Center
 - Volume 1, Page 444 under M-R Convention Complex – Service 855
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM – Parking Authority of Baltimore City
 - Volume 2, Pag 426 under Dept. of Transportation – Service 682
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON – Office of the Inspector General
 - Volume 2, Page 215
- 12:00 NOON – 12:30 PM – LUNCH
- 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM - Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services
 - Volume 2, Page 113
- 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM - Department of Housing & Community Development
 - Volume 1, Page 259
- 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM – Department of Housing & Community Development / LIVE Baltimore
 - Volume 1, Page 259 (LIVE Baltimore is under DHCD – Service 815

DAY THREE (3) – May 30, 2025

ABOUT AGENCIES, FUNDS, AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS

SEE ATTACHED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- Board of Liquor License Commissioners
- Baltimore Convention Center
- Parking Authority of Baltimore City
- Office of the Inspector General
- Mayor's Office of Homeless Services
- Department of Housing & Community Development
- Department of Housing & Community Development / LIVE Baltimore

Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC)

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners, a State of Maryland agency, regulates the sale, storage, and distribution of alcoholic beverages in Baltimore City. It is also responsible for licensing and regulating adult entertainment businesses. The Board's duties include processing applications and renewals for alcohol licenses, conducting inspections of licensed businesses, collecting license fees and fines, and taking action—such as fines, suspensions, or revocations—against violators of liquor laws. In May 1999, the Board granted the authority to regulate adult entertainment businesses in Baltimore City through House Bill 1120, enacted in 1998, and Baltimore City Ordinance 99-417, which transferred this responsibility from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Board.

BBLC is responsible for processing applications for and renewals of licenses to sell beer, wine, and liquor; conducting periodic inspections of businesses licensed to sell alcoholic beverages; collecting all license fees and fines; fining, suspending, or revoking the licenses of violators of alcoholic beverage laws; and licensing and regulating adult entertainment businesses in Baltimore City. BLLC also issues licenses for special events (such as one-day licenses for beer and wine festivals).businesses licensed to sell alcoholic beverages; collecting all license fees and fines; fining, suspending, or revoking the licenses of violators of alcoholic beverage laws; and licensing and regulating adult entertainment businesses in Baltimore City. BLLC also issues licenses for special events (such as one-day licenses for beer and wine festivals).

Composition	Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC)
City Council Approval	No
Legal Authority	Chapter 26, 2016 Regular Session
Liaison/Executive Director Name	Douglas K. Paige
Liaison/Executive Director Phone	410-396-4377
Liaison/Executive Director Email	Douglas.Paige@baltimorecity.gov

The Baltimore Convention Center

The Baltimore Convention Center is the Mid-Atlantic region's premier venue for conventions, meetings, trade shows, banquets, and special events. With **300,000 square feet of contiguous exhibition space, 85,000 square feet of flexible meeting space across 50 rooms, and a 36,672-square-foot multifunctional ballroom**, the BCC offers the capacity and versatility to accommodate a wide range of professional gatherings. Our trusted business partners – Levy (catering), Projection (audio-visual), Hospitality Network (telecommunications), and Edlen Electrical Exhibition Services (temporary utility services) – ensure a seamless experience by providing industry-leading event support services.

Since opening in **August 1979**, the Baltimore Convention Center has been a cornerstone of economic growth and tourism in the region. Its construction predicated and helped catalyze the development of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, preceding iconic attractions like **Harborplace and the National Aquarium**. The BCC's success spurred further investment in retail, dining, and entertainment, solidifying Baltimore's reputation as a dynamic destination for both business and leisure.

The BCC underwent a significant expansion in 1996 and continues to be a leading force in the city's convention and tourism industry. Hosting over **125 events annually** and welcoming approximately **500,000 attendees**, the venue is a key driver of economic impact.

With a legacy of excellence and a commitment to innovation, the Baltimore Convention Center remains the heart of Baltimore's convention and tourism industry, providing an exceptional experience for event organizers, exhibitors, and attendees alike.

Mission Statement

The Baltimore Convention Center's mission is to generate positive economic impact, create jobs, and serve our community. Together, we are committed to delivering exceptional experiences for everyone, every time

Parking Authority of Baltimore City (PABC)

Description

PABC is a “quasi” governmental agency of Baltimore City. We are also a registered 501c(3) non-profit organization.

About Us

PABC oversees the management of 13 parking garages and 20 parking lots; 950 multi-space parking meters and over 2,300 single-space parking meters; over 3,600 reserved residential disabled parking permitted parking spaces; and 50 Residential Permit Parking Program areas, distributing over 30,000 permits annually. We also oversee valet parking regulations and a parking planning section.

Mission

The mission of the Parking Authority of Baltimore City is to find, create, and implement parking solutions for Baltimore City, and to be the resource on all things "parking" in Baltimore.

History / Creation

The Parking Authority was created by City Ordinance 2000-71 to enhance Baltimore City's position in the planning, development, management, and operations of its parking institution.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the Authority. Members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation. Four members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, and one is a member of the City Council appointed by the City Council President. Each member of the Board serves a 3-year staggered term and may be removed at will by the appointing representative.

Staff

The Authority's staff is employed to administer the Authority's programs and fulfill the decisions of the Board.

Values

Integrity

We follow all laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

The decisions we make are morally right and in the best interest of the city.

Professionalism

We interact with our customers and with our teammates with professional conduct and courtesy at all times.

Our actions and appearance reflect the professional nature of our organization.

Responsiveness

We respond quickly to the questions, concerns, and needs of all of our customers and our teammates.

Fairness

In our interactions with customers and teammates, we are always fair and unbiased.

Innovation

We are always looking for ways to accomplish our mission better, faster, and at less cost.

Current Board of Directors

Henry M. Kay, AICP, Chair

Director, Transit/Rail , Rummel, Klepper & Kahl (RK&K)

Zac Blanchard

Councilmember, Baltimore City 11th District

Bob Cenname

Budget Director, City of Baltimore, Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)

Natasha M. Dartigue, Esquire

Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore City, District One Administration

Tony Scott

Associate Director for Project Development, Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development

Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the City of Baltimore was established by Executive Order, which was signed by Mayor Martin O'Malley on July 27, 2005. In 2018 that bill was introduced to establish OIG independence. On November 7, 2018, 83% of Baltimore City voters voted in favor of an independent Office of the Inspector General. This independence ensures accountability, transparency, and integrity in government without political influence or pressure, as mandated by the citizens.

The mission of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in the City government by identifying financial waste, fraud, and abuse. This, in turn, promotes public trust in the City government. Citizens have the right to expect effective and honest City leadership virtues that are best fostered when the government policies itself and initiates improvements in operational efficiency. The OIG contributes to these objectives through impartial and independent investigations.

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS)

Approximately 1,600 men, women, and children are homeless in Baltimore City on any given night. Lack of affordable housing, low incomes, and limited access to comprehensive services are primary causes of homelessness. Disabilities and chronic illnesses, including substance use disorders and mental illness, create additional challenges in resolving homelessness.

The mission of the **Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS)** is to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Baltimore City through a trauma-informed, data-driven, and person-centered approach. Through strategic public-private partnerships, we will meet the immediate needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness while creating a more efficient homeless response system in Baltimore City.

Department and Housing and Community Development

The Baltimore City Department and Housing and Community Development (DHCD) work to improve the quality of life for all Baltimore City residents by revitalizing and redeveloping communities and promoting access to quality affordable housing opportunities in safe, livable neighborhoods.

DHCD was created in 1968 to consolidate local community development efforts with housing and building code enforcement. With just over 400 employees, DHCD strengthens City neighborhoods by attracting investors, developers, and home buyers. Through the administration of CDBG, HOME, City bond funds, and other creative financing mechanisms, the Department finances, and guides strategic development projects to meet housing and neighborhood needs. To hold property owners accountable and keep neighborhoods safe, DHCD monitors construction and building activity and enforces the City's housing and building codes. The Department also provides a host of valuable community services and administers a host of programs for residents.

The Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development is organized into five units: Administration, Communications, Policy & Partnerships, Operations, and Information Technology. Within the Operations unit, there are five divisions: Development, Homeownership & Housing Preservation, Research & Consolidated Planning, Housing Code Enforcement & Emergency Operations, and Permits & Litigation.

Live Baltimore

About

Live Baltimore fights the persistent and devastating population loss that began in Baltimore City in the 1950s and which has destabilized neighborhoods and limited families' opportunities to flourish in their communities. Live Baltimore believes residents are our City's greatest assets. **As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we work citywide to grow Baltimore's economy by attracting residents, retaining residents, and supporting healthy housing markets.** Each year, Live Baltimore provides thousands of individuals with information on the city's 250+ neighborhoods, rental living options, homebuying incentive programs, historic tax credits, and more.

In FY24, Live Baltimore:

- reached over 440,000 individuals through LiveBaltimore.com,
- directly assisted 1 in 6 Baltimore City homebuyers, including 1,094 households,
- facilitated homeownership in 208 distinct neighborhoods, and
- helped generate \$296.2 million in home sales and \$12.1 million in city tax revenue.

The budget for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) also includes the City's annual funding for the Baltimore Development Corporation (Services 809, 810, and 813), Waterfront Partnership (Service 814), **Live Baltimore (Service 815)**, and East Baltimore Development Inc (activity within Service 749). These goals and mission of these organizations align with the goals of DHCD. Funding for these organizations is allocated through grant agreements reviewed and approved by the Board of Estimates.