



HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0069R

Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: November 17, 2021

Time (Beginning): 11:55 AM

Time (Ending): 1:20 PM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 70 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Motioned by: McCray
Seconded by: Conway
Final Vote: Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Scott Davis, Mayor's Office
Caylin Young, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Bill Wells, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services
MacKenzie Garvin, Mayor's Office of Employment Development
Kelleigh Eastman, Department of Health
Bill Joyner, Police Department
Sgt. Kevin Bailey, Police Department

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and explained how the hearing would proceed. She then discussed some of the challenges faced by Baltimore's transgender community and the importance of meeting the community's needs.
2. Councilman Burnett noted that transgender individuals often face violence, housing insecurity, and job discrimination, as well as other challenges and called for the City and State to do more to protect the trans community in Baltimore and across the State.
3. Iya Dammons, founder and Executive Director of Baltimore Safe Haven, explained that the trans community needs more help and support from the City.
4. Representatives for City agencies discussed the City's efforts and programs to serve the trans community and summarized their agencies' written reports.
5. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
 - a. What resources does the City offer for transgender people facing housing insecurity due to discrimination or other issues? Bill Wells explained that the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services' (MOHS) does not have programs specifically focused on LGBTQ individuals but its programs are available to anyone facing homelessness.
 - b. What do work force development and education opportunities look like? Are there opportunities for collaboration? MacKenzie Garvin summarized several of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development's (MOED) programs and explained that the office is expanding its community job hubs program to more community-based organizations as part of the American Rescue Plan. Job seekers can contact MOED at 410-396-3009 or <https://moed.baltimorecity.gov/contact-us-job-seekers>. MOED's job board is available at <https://moed.bcitscripts.com/>, and MOED locations are listed at <https://moed.baltimorecity.gov/moed-service-locations>
 - c. How can residents engage with the Civilian Review Board and file complaints? Complaints can be filed at <https://civilrights.baltimorecity.gov/civilian-review-board/file>.
 - d. Does the Office of Equity and Civil Rights provide training to help residents understand their rights? The Office is not currently offering trainings but will look into doing so in the future. The ACLU of Maryland does provide "know your rights" training.
 - e. What services are available for individuals over the age of 24? MOHS and MOED programs are available for adults. Many of the Health Department's services are also focused on adults.
 - f. Does the Mayor's Office have specific, measurable expectations for the future Director of LGBTQ Affairs? The LGBTQ Commission has put forward ideas and priorities, and once the new director is hired there will be a community discussion to further refine the priorities and plans for the office.
 - g. How do the Police Department and State's Attorney's Office work with transgender people who are victims of crime to develop the trust necessary to effectively investigate and prosecute those crimes, and are police and prosecutors equipped with the training and information to connect transgender people to other services and resources that they may need? The State's Attorney's Office and Police Department collaborate to reach out to victims of violence who may be reluctant to pursue justice or who need other

assistance. The Police Department has also developed training to ensure impartial and fair policing.

- h. Do all City schools currently offer gender-neutral facilities for students? Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPSS) has a policy affirming the right of students to use facilities corresponding to their gender identities. BCPSS is also adding gender neutral facilities to schools as part of renovation and construction projects.
 - i. How does the City coordinate healthcare access across different programs? MOHS assesses the needs of individuals entering their programs, including healthcare, and connects them to service providers. The Health Department maintains <https://www.charmcare.org/> as a comprehensive resource.
6. Members of the public testified about community-based resources for the trans community, the need to correct conditions faced by LGBTQ individuals in jails and prisons, recent instances of violence committed against trans residents, and the need for improved public safety, housing, healthcare, and harm reduction efforts.
 7. The Committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. N/A

Committee Vote:

D. McCray: Yea
 J. Bullock: Yea
 M. Conway: Yea
 R. Dorsey: Absent
 P. Porter: Yea
 J. Torrence: Yea
 I. Schleifer: Absent



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: November 18, 2021

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File