



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**Mission Statement**

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee will be responsible for matters concerning public safety, including, but not limited to; emergency preparedness, police services, fire/EMS, and the executive, administrative, and operational functions of the city government and libraries.*

**The Honorable Mark Conway  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
1:00 PM  
CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Ordinance 23-0203R***

***Informational Hearing BGE & Forestry***

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

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Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

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Phylicia Porter  
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All City Council Members  
*Staff: Larry Greene (410-396-7215)*

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## **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

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Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
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Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



**SYNOPSIS**

**Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations**

**Bill: 23-0203R**

**Informational Hearing BGE & Forestry**

**Sponsor:** *Chairman Mark Conway*

**Introduced:** *December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Purpose:**

FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (“BGE”) and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks to discuss BGE’s approach to tree trimming and tree management when maintaining power lines and related equipment.

**Effective:** n/a

**AGENCY REPORTS**

City Solicitor	Approved for form and sufficiency
Department of Recreation and Parks	No Objection
BGE	

**ANALYSIS**

*Bill Summary*

This bill invites various stakeholders to discuss the maintenance of powerlines and equipment relating to the management and trimming of trees.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** 23-0203R 1<sup>st</sup> reader, Agency Reports,

Analysis by: Anthony Leva

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091

Analysis Date: January 23, 2024

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 23-0203R  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Conway

Introduced and read first time: December 4, 2023

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Recreation and Parks

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – BGE and Forestry**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company  
4 (“BGE”) and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks to discuss BGE’s  
5 approach to tree trimming and tree management when maintaining power lines and related  
6 equipment.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
8 Council invites representatives from BGE and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and  
9 Parks to discuss BGE’s approach to tree trimming and tree management when maintaining power  
10 lines and related equipment.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President and  
12 CEO of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, the Director of the Department of Recreation  
13 and Parks, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**23-0203R  
AGENCY REPORTS**

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
ACTING CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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January 12, 2024

Honorable President  
Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 23-0203R – Informational Hearing — BGE and Forestry

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0203R. The bill invites representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (“BGE”) and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks to discuss BGE’s approach to tree trimming and tree management when maintaining power lines and related equipment.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards. The Council cannot compel representatives from BGE to attend the hearing since BGE is not a City agency. See generally MD Code Public Utilities Article; COMAR, Title 20. A representative of BGE may appear voluntarily.


Council Bill 23-0203R is an appropriate resolution to initiate the informational hearing and request the specified officials to attend to discuss issues surrounding tree trimming and maintenance in the City. The Law Department approves Council Bill 23-0203R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Nina Themelis  
Tiffany Maclin  
Elena DiPietro  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Teresa Cummings

<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Reginald Moore Executive Director <i>Reginald Moore</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks 3001 East Drive, Baltimore, Maryland (MD) 21217	<b>MEMO</b>	
	Subject :	City Council Bill 23-0203R BGE & BCRP Tree Trimming & Tree Management		

**DATE:** January 17, 2024

**TO:** The Honorable City Council President Nick Mosby  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

I am reporting on City Council Bill 23-0203R to invite representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) to discuss BGE's tree trimming and tree management protocols when maintaining power lines and related equipment.

BCRP Administration and BCRP Forestry Division personnel will be on hand to discuss the topic at the upcoming hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Morgan at [jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov).