



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 26-0161

Accessibility in City Programs, Services, and Activities

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Chaired by: Chairwoman Phylicia Porter

Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time (Beginning): 11:05 AM

Time (Ending): 11:55 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 25 In-Person
 Approximately 10 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter	James Torrence
Mark Parker	John Bullock
Odette Ramos	

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- **Public Testimony - Online**
 - Ted Eccleston, Speaker
- **Agency Representatives**
 - Michelle Toth, Law Department
 - Gabriel Stuart-Sikowitz, Finance Department
 - Eric Tiso, Planning Department

- Amy Gilder-Busatti, Commission on Sustainability
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter called the hearing to order.
2. No one signed in to give public testimony.
3. The committee members went over the agency reports with the agency representatives. Some noteworthy topics and/or remarks were:
 - Law Department – talked about their proposed amendments and informed the committee members that those amendments will be submitted in the proper format within the next two (2) weeks
 - Finance Department – informed committee members that the Department have not to date submitted a report but one will be forthcoming before a voting session is held. He also stated that a fiscal note would be included in their report.
 - Planning Department – talked about their report and proposed amendments. He also informed the committee members that the second (2nd) proposed amendment will be replaced with the proposed amendment submitted by the Law Department.
4. The representative from the Commission on Sustainability gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is in the bill file.**
5. Committee members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
 - Questions/Comments/Concerns:
 - Will the amendments in this bill include any information pertaining to Administrative Review?
 - Concern: It is important for us to have an administrative appeal process!
 - Tree Issue in 14th District
 - Residents were not given enough notice
 - Residents should be aware of the processes involved
 - This issue was traumatic for some residents
 - Our District needs more tree canopy and better notifications!
 - New Priority Detention Areas – Map in the PowerPoint Presentation
 - Who can explain the small gaps?
 - The areas that are greater than five (5) acres
 - For the areas that are less than 5 acres, talk about what type of projects would be talked about for the normal process? What will be new and/or stringent based on the changes?
 - I'm trying to distinguish between a forest and a piece of land that may have just 4 to 5 trees on it! Help me understand the distinction!
 - Stream Restoration Efforts
 - How effective are they with achieving our sustainability and environmental goals? Does the city have plans to do more projects like this in the future?
6. Mr. Eccleston gave public testimony online/virtually. Some topics, comments and/or concerns were:
 - This is an opportunity for the city to protect its urban environment!
 - Provisions are needed to protect forest conservation easements
 - With Redevelopment Projects there are things that happen to forests

- It changes the hydrology, the way the water flows when large rainfall occurs, the water does not respect the boundaries of a project
 - A new system is needed to hold developers liable for the impact they have on the forest conservation easements; especially pertaining to hydrology!
 - An environmental study is needed to show impacts of projects and follow-up needed after projects are completed.
7. Chairwoman Porter asked Mr. Eccleston to email her office to set up some time to talk formally; especially about hydrology.
8. Per Chairwoman Porter, the committee will not vote on the bill until finalized amendments are received and the Department of Finance's have submitted its agency report. Hearing recessed.
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Further Study

Was further study?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See #8 above.
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Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: May 20, 2026

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Bill: Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation – Conforming Amendments # 26-0161

Committee: Public Health and Environment Chair: **Phylicia Porter**

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 Time: **10:01 AM**

Location: Council Chambers

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No one signed in							
Ted	Eccleston	-Online / Virtual testimony					

*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



City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Health & Environment Committee

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

10:00 AM
Room Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2333 865 7258, Password: Public,
Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m27f7990dbf2da69acd9fb39446657be8)
MTID=m27f7990dbf2da69acd9fb39446657be8

LO26-0044 - B'more Healthy Babies Strategy and Bill 26-0161 - Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation - Conforming Amendments

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Parker, James Torrence, John Bullock, and Odette Ramos

Absent 2 - Mark Conway, and Ryan Dorsey

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO26-0044 B'more Healthy Babies Strategy

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss maternal health in Baltimore City and the B'more for Healthy Babies Initiative's 5-year Strategic Refresh, including priority health issues identified by the Initiative.

LO26-0044 - Hearing called to recess.

26-0161 Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation – Conforming Amendments

FOR the purpose of amending the Forest and Tree Conservation provisions of Article 7 of the Baltimore City Code to comply with new State requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

26-0161 - Hearing recessed; to reconvene later.

ADJOURNMENT