

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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HEARING NOTES

Bill: 23-0428

Mayor's Redistricting Plan

Committee: Committee of the Whole
Chaired by: President Nick J. Mosby

Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Time (Beginning): 3:05 PM
Time (Ending): 5:05 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

All fifteen (15) committee members were in attendance.

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.)

- Marvin James, Mayor's Office
- Sara Paraniham, Planning Department
- Anthony Fairfax, Census Channel LLC
- Angela Zanti, President, Morrell Park Community Association
- James Prost, Bolton Hill Community

Major Issues Discussed

1. President Mosby, Chairman, informed the attendees how the hearing would be conducted and gave opening remarks; some were:

- Redistricting takes place on both the State and Local levels every ten (10) years.
 - And urged the citizens and council members to take a good look at the new MAP.
2. The representative from the Mayor's Office gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
- The Presentation included the following topics:
 - Overview/Background
 - The Process
 - Focus Areas
 - Drafting of the MAP
 - Key Challenges
 - Significant Changes, and
 - Proposed MAP
3. Committee/council members asked questions, made comments, and stated concerns. Some highlights of same were:
- Comments were given regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board of Elections
 - Comments and concerns about the "Issue of splitting precincts; being moved or split."
 - Was any of the data from the last redistricting used in the Mayor's decision-making?
 - Was any of the present things used such as development that are happening within districts in your decision-making? If not, is this a variable that can be included?
 - Stakeholder Engagement Process
 - What role did stakeholders play in getting the MAP produced?
 - How did you come up with and/or what data was used to come up with the MAP?
 - Concern – **13th District**
 - Deleting portions of the 13th district and picking up other districts such as district 1 and district 3 – is of concern.
 - Why the changes?
 - Why not pull from districts 2 or 14?
 - Concern – **Sixty (60) day requirement – Clarification needed.**
 - To Law Department – the council wanted an opinion from your Department regarding the law if the Mayor vetoes the bill after the Council finishes with it/passes it.
 - What happens to the 60-day window? Please clarify!
 - What is the definition of "the Council taking action?" Please clarify.
 - Will the Mayor allow the Council time to override a potential veto? And the time to do its (Council) work?
 - It is important for all of us to be on the same page.
 - Concern: The Council's ability to take legislation action if needed!
 - This is why another hearing is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2023!
 - Shape Files
 - We made a request for shape files!
 - The interactive MAP is great, but we would like the MAP in a "shape file."
 - We need to do a thorough review and would prefer the MAP in a "shape file," necessary to do our legislative work/duty!
 - Maybe we should make this request a part of the City Charter!
 - To Planning: Talk to us about the kind of software you use, and can we get the shape file from Planning?
4. The representative from Census Channel LLC gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
- Questions/concerns from Committee/Councilmembers – addressed to speaker.

- **Compactness** – Can you elaborate on same? What is the definition for it? What standards are you using for compactness?
 - Can you talk more about the definition for compactness and how it relates to the 7th district?
 - Is confused about some of your assumptions!
 - Can you talk about your MAP in the Presentation for the 7th District? What kind of questions you think could be raised by the residents?
 - Comments were made about the importance of being transparent!
 - Population deviation on your MAP – what data are you using and what does the adjustments include?
5. Two (2) people gave public testimony. Some comments and/or concerns expressed were:
- 1st Speaker from 10th District – **Morrell Park**
 - Just seen the MAP yesterday, and is hoping to keep the community in one district, the 10th district
 - Please look into this!
 - 2nd Speaker from 11th District – **Bolton Hill**
 - Do not want the community split between two districts, the 11th and 7th districts!
 - Want the community to remain in the 11th district.
6. The representative from the Mayor’s Office asked of he could receive copies of any Presentations presented and of any changes coming.
7. The councilmember from the 7th District made a request, “can we consider an evening meeting for the public to attend?”
8. President Mosby, Chairman gave closing remarks. Some were:
- I am asking all councilmembers to prioritize the MAP and to work with the community.
 - Requests:
 - Want the shape files!
 - Clarification about the 60-day deadline
 - Clarification about when action is needed on the bill.
 - Need all the information asked for before Friday’s meeting.
 - The councilmember from the 11th District also requested that the responses be in writing and on letterhead.
9. The hearing was called to recess; to reconvene on Friday, September 29, 2023.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See #8 above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: September 27, 2023

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Ordinance - Mayor's Redistricting Plan	Bill #: 23-0428
Committee: Committee of the Whole	Chair: President Nick Mosby
Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023	Time: 3:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

Testify



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		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	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Angela	Zanti	Morrell Park Community Association		✓			

*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

Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

3:00 PM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2343 660 6532, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m34ee33d1c6ab230ec261ce31e68f8936)
MTID=m34ee33d1c6ab230ec261ce31e68f8936

23-0428

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 15 - Eric T. Costello, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, James Torrence, John T. Bullock, Kristerfer Burnett, Mark Conway, Odette Ramos, Phylicia Porter, President Nicholas J. Mosby, Robert Stokes Sr., Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Zeke Cohen, Danielle N. McCray, and Antonio Glover

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0428

Mayor's Redistricting Plan

For the purpose of establishing the boundaries of the Council Districts for the election of members of the Baltimore City Council.

Sponsors: Administration City Council

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 9:30 AM

ADJOURNMENT