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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	Council Bill 21-0062R – American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

October 4, 2021

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0062R, American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings, the purpose of which is to establish quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and management of \$641 million in federal funding through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and to improve transparency and accountability for responding to the economic impact of COVID-19.

#### **Background**

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was intended to provide emergency funding for state and local governments in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The City of Baltimore was awarded \$641 million of funding through ARPA, which must be obligated by the end of calendar year 2024. Given the size of the ARPA award, a new office, the Office of Recovery Programs, was created to manage the ARPA funds and funded will be responsible for evaluating proposals, awarding funds, keeping projects on schedule, and ensuring compliance with all federal rules and regulations. The Office is funded by ARPA funds during the eligibility period.

#### **Other Considerations**

The Department of Finance will continue to work with the Office of Recovery Programs on the use of ARPA funds. Finance will play a leading role in evaluating all incoming ARPA proposals. Finance is also providing guidance on the need to use ARPA for “budget stabilization” to support the City’s General Fund during the economic recovery from COVID-19. Ultimately, the goal is to spend ARPA funds in a manner that is most impactful to the City and its residents, while also keeping the City on a sustainable fiscal path.

#### **Conclusion**

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to any fiscal inquiries.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Natasha Mehu  
Nina Themelis