

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 23-0186R

Information Hearing – Examining the State of Baltimore’s Middle Neighborhoods

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology
Chaired by: Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Hearing Date:

Time (Beginning): 10:07 AM
Time (Ending): 12:08 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20
Committee Members in Attendance:
Danielle McCray John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey
James Torrence

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised 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.)

- Marsha Collins, Department of Public Works
- Liam Davis, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
- Stephanie Murdoch, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Chris Ryer, Baltimore Planning Department
- Nicole Hart, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Bob Pipik, President of Healthy Neighborhoods Inc.
- Shaiyel Sheltzer

Major Issues Discussed

1. The DHCD affirmed its support and presented a comprehensive toolkit developed to address the needs of various stakeholders, including homeowners, homebuyers, renters, community organizations, and businesses.
2. The Director of Planning and Assistant Director of Planning discussed the history of the middle neighborhood strategy and presented criteria for selecting neighborhoods for targeted intervention. They also emphasized the importance of a path forward for sustainable community development.
3. The Department of Public Works expressed support for the resolution and provided information on its written report. They mentioned participation in a slide presentation and confirmed their commitment to the goals outlined in the resolution.
4. Live Baltimore: The "Buy Back the Block" program was highlighted, focusing on converting tenants to homeowners through financial support for purchasing and renovating rental properties.
5. Acknowledgment that different neighborhoods face distinct challenges, requiring tailored solutions.
6. Concerns about transit access disparities, with a focus on addressing transportation challenges in middle neighborhoods.
7. Discussion about the Sewage Overflow Program (SOS) and the challenges in providing support during wet and dry weather events.
8. Questions about outreach efforts to ensure residents benefit from the Homeowner Tax Credit and possible legislative support for removing asset caps.
9. Exploring opportunities to collaborate with universities and leverage anchor institutions to encourage residents, especially students, to live in middle neighborhoods.
10. Consideration of incentives for students, faculty, and staff to reside in these areas.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. Provide a breakdown of all the allocated \$9.7 million of ARPA funds that have been spent thus far.

Deontre Hayes

Committee Staff: Deontre L. Hayes
Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

Date: December 20, 2023



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Resolution – Informational Hearing - Examining the State of Baltimore's Middle Neighborhoods	23-0186R
Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology	Chair: Danielle McCray
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023	Time: 10:00 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
Robert	Pipilo	11 E Mt Royal Balto 21202 Healthy Neighborhood Inc bpipilo@healthyneighborhoodinc.org	✓				
Sharxel	Setzer	2306 Tompkins St Emmitta Neighborhood	✓				

*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

Health, Environment, and Technology

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

10:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2330 351 3519, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=maf4688040b42769305455056606fb60d](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=maf4688040b42769305455056606fb60d)

23-0186R

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

- Present** 5 - Danielle N. McCray, John T. Bullock, Mark Conway, Ryan Dorsey, and James Torrence
- Absent** 2 - Phylcia Porter, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0186R

Informational Hearing - Examining the State of Baltimore's Middle Neighborhoods

For the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the City Administrator, and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss: (1) the systemic disinvestment of Baltimore's middle neighborhoods and its connection to the decline in Baltimore's population of working and middle class families; (2) ongoing efforts to revitalize these neighborhoods; (3) future strategies to invest in these neighborhoods; and (4) present challenges to reversing current trends and restoring these once-stable communities.

Sponsors: Danielle N. McCray, President Nicholas J. Mosby, Kristerfer Burnett, John T. Bullock, Mark Conway, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Robert Stokes, Sr., Odette Ramos, Phylcia Porter, Antonio Glover, Zeke Cohen, James Torrence, Eric T. Costello

Recessed

ADJOURNMENT