

SIXTEENTH DAY

FIRST COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2024-2028

JOURNAL
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

August 18, 2025

Pastor Mark Edward James, Sr., of Barnes Memorial Church, delivered an opening prayer.

Led by Marine veteran, Councilmember Zac Blanchard, the President and members of the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The City Council of Baltimore met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Zeke Cohen, President, and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos Absent: Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of July 21, 2025 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 5, 2025

The Honorable Zeke Cohen, Council President
And Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Honorable President Cohen and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to inform your Honorable Body that I have signed into law on August 5, 2025, the following bills:

25-0042 – Retirement Savings Plan – Clarifying Amendment – For the purpose of clarifying the definition of “service” for the members of the Retirement Savings Plan; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0043 – Employees’ Retirement System – Class C – Filing Period – Amendment – For the purpose of increasing the time period required between filing for and commencing receipt of service retirement benefits by Class C members; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0044 – Employees’ Retirement System – Board of Trustees – Membership and Qualifications – For the purpose of making certain amendments to the membership and qualifications of the members of the Employees’ Retirement System’s Board of Trustees; and providing for a special effective date.

In Partnership,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

INTRODUCTION AND READ FIRST TIME

The President laid before the City Council the following bills and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council for first reading:

Bill No. 25-0087 – By: Councilmember Torrence

Cosponsored By: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Ramos, Porter

An Ordinance requiring a landlord to retain a tenant's property for a specified period of time under certain circumstances; requiring a certain notice be provided to a tenant upon eviction; and generally relating to eviction and a tenant's right to reclaim personal property.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

Bill No. 25-0088 – By: Councilmember Ramos

Cosponsored By: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, and Jones

An Ordinance amending the special real property tax rate for vacant and abandoned property to include vacant lots; establishing a subclass of real property of vacant lots and vacant structures; applying a special real property tax rate to the subclass of real property; requiring the provision of notice of the special real property tax rate; providing for the promulgation of rules and regulations; requiring a certain annual report; defining certain terms; repealing certain sections of Ordinance 24-431 that ordained an abrogation date for the Ordinance; and generally relating to the special real property tax rate levied on vacant lots and vacant structures.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

Bill No. 25-0089 – By: Councilmember Torrence

An Ordinance changing the zoning for the property known as 1029 West 37th Street (Block 3539, Lot 014), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the R-6 Zoning District to the R-7 Zoning District; permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single family dwelling unit on the property to 2 dwelling units; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0090 – By: Councilmember Gray

An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 2 dwelling units in the R-7 Zoning District on the property known as 220 North Culver Street (Block 2275A, Lot 135), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting a variance regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0091 – By: Councilmember Bullock

An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 4 dwelling units in the R-8 Zoning District on the property known as 1425 West Fayette Street (Block 0197, Lot 013), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting a variance regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0092 – By: Councilmember Bullock

An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a banquet hall on the property known as 1123 West Baltimore Street (Block 0217, Lot 012) in the C-2 Zoning District, as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting a variance regarding off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0093 – By: Councilmember Dorsey

An Ordinance establishing the Harford Road Overlay District; delineating the boundaries of the district; creating applicable use regulations within the district; establishing bulk and yard regulations within the district; detailing other applicable standards within the district; amending certain off-street parking requirements; and generally relating to the establishment of the Harford Road Overlay District.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0094 – By: The Council President (Administration – Baltimore Development Corporation)

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain properties that are located at 2840 Sisson Street (Block 3642D, Lot 006B) and 2842 Sisson Street (Block 3642D, Lot 006) and are no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0030R – By: Councilmember Torrence
Cosponsored By: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, and Porter

A Resolution establishing the Task Force on Residential Care Facility Licensing to study and make recommendations to the Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing for a clear, enforceable, and comprehensive framework for licensing and regulating residential care facilities in the City; establishing the members of the Task Force; and requiring a report of findings and recommendations to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

Bill No. 25-0031R – By: Councilmember Blanchard
Cosponsored By: President Cohen and Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Jones, Ramos, and Bullock

A Resolution inviting representatives from Mayor Brandon M. Scott's administration, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund to appear before the City Council to: (1) provide an update on current sports programs for middle school-aged children and identify which programs are being administered by City agencies, schools, and contractors; (2) present a recap of middle school sports program availability in the previous 3 years and a projection for opportunities in the next 3 years; (3) identify opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate and increase the number of programs available in the future; and (4) better define the roles these City agencies hold in middle school sports and identify further ways they can engage middle school-aged children in sports programs and opportunities.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee.

The President laid before the City Council the following Council Resolutions for first reading:

Bill No. 25-0032R - By President Cohen

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Jones, and Ramos

Introduced

(Read and adopted)

Safety Standards for Micromobility Devices and Batteries

FOR the purpose of declaring the City Council’s support for comprehensive safety standards for all micromobility devices and batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for lease or rent within Baltimore City and calling on manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of these devices to voluntarily adhere to specified safety standards.

Recitals

Baltimoreans use micromobility devices, such as electric bicycles and scooters, as a key mode of transportation as they travel to work, run errands, and otherwise enjoy the City. With the rise of electric bicycles, scooters, and other personal micromobility devices, ensuring compliance with proven safety standards is essential to preventing hazardous fires and protecting consumers and property, while also supporting sustainable innovation.

The increasing prevalence of micromobility devices has been accompanied by alarming reports of battery-related fires, explosions, and other hazards. For micromobility devices that do not meet safety standards, there is a heightened risk of lithium-ion batteries experiencing a cascading failure, where excessive heat generation triggers toxic gas release, explosions, or fire spread.

Between 2021 and 2022, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received reports from 39 states of at least 208 incidents involving fires or overheating related to electric bicycles and personal e-mobility devices, resulting in 19 fatalities.

Consensus-based, American nationally-accredited safety standards developed by Underwriter Laboratories Standards and Engagement (ULSE), a nonprofit safety advocacy organization, have proven effective in mitigating these hazards. In 2022, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommended that manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers design, manufacture, and certify micromobility devices to the appropriate ULSE standards. Doing so helps reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities. Independent third-party certification promotes product safety and consumer protection.

The City Council calls on all manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of micromobility devices and batteries in the City to voluntarily adopt the following safety measures in alignment with ULSE’s guidance:

1. Adopt the following certification standards:
 - (a) Test and certify electric bicycles to the UL 2849 electrical and fire safety standard;
 - (b) Consult an accredited certification body to ensure personal e-mobility devices align with the UL 2272 standard; and
 - (c) Test traction batteries and ensure they align with the UL 2271 safety and performance standard;
2. Use visible certification marks from nationally-recognized certification bodies to help consumers identify products that meet established safety benchmarks;
3. Pursue enhanced consumer awareness and public safety initiatives:
 - (a) Initiate educational campaigns that inform consumers on proper charging, storage, and disposal of micromobility batteries to minimize risks; and
 - (b) provide local training to first responders on how to safely handle micromobility battery-related fire hazards; and
4. Comply with safety recommendation and conduct regular safety reviews to ensure continued adhere to best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the City Council expresses its support for comprehensive safety standards for all micromobility devices and batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for lease or rent within Baltimore City and calls on manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and lessors of these devices to voluntarily adhere to specified safety standards.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing, the Director of Transportation, the Chief of the Baltimore Fire Department, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

President Cohen made a motion that the Rules be suspended.

There being no objection, the President declared that the Rules were suspended.

Then President Cohen made a motion that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, AND 258 ADOPTED UNDER RULE 3-9.

The resolutions were read.

The roll was called on the adoption of the resolutions, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The President declared the resolutions adopted under Rule 3-9.

THIRD READING

The President laid before the City Council:

BILL NO. 25-0020 - An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 3 dwelling units in the R-8 Zoning District on the property known as 2001 West Baltimore Street (Block 0206, Lot 045), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting variances regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area) and off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0037 - An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 2 dwelling units in the R-8 Zoning District on the property known as 1727 McCulloh Street (Block 0341, Lot 020), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting a variance regarding off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0041 - An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 3 dwelling units in the R-7 Zoning District on the property known as 2628 Edmondson Avenue, as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting variances regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area) and off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

Then Councilmember Bullock offered the following amendment to the bill:

Amendment to City Council Bill No. 25-0041

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in line 24, strike "2,775" and substitute "2,750".

The roll was called on the amendment, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The President declared the amendment adopted and ordered the bill printed in enrolled form.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0049 - An Ordinance authorizing the release and surrender by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore of all of its interests in and to the access easement generally described as a 30 foot wide parcel, which extends from Pulaski Highway on the north to the southern boundary of the Property along the entire eastern boundary of the Property ("the Easement Area"), previously granted by WH-Pulaski, LLC, predecessor in interest to the current land owner, 6709 Pulaski, LLC; the location and course of the access easement to be released being created and described by that certain Access Easement Agreement dated October 7, 2011 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Liber 13806, Page 235 ("the Access Easement").

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0053 - An Ordinance changing the zoning for the property known as 4001 East Baltimore Street (Block 6279, Lot 009), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the I-2 Zoning District to the IMU-1 Zoning District.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0054 - An Ordinance amending the view corridor requirements in the W-2 Overlay District; and amending "Table 12 903(4). Middle Branch Waterfront Area" to include revised view corridors.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0057 - An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property that is located at 5401 Mason Lord Drive (Block 6332, Lot 002) and is no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Dorsey, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - Parker, McCray, Glover, Conway - Total 4.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

ADJOURNMENT

President Cohen adjourned the City Council to next meet on Monday, September 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

CR0233 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Alexander Casey, May 19, 1925 – July 6, 2025.

CR0234 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Delores L. Maddox, October 4, 1941 - July 7, 2025.

CR0235 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating CIC Brandon T. Bracey Sr in recognition of his outstanding leadership to the citizens of Baltimore as Commander In Chief of Hiram Consistory No. 2 and his commitment to uplifting Prince Hall Scottish Rite masonry in Maryland by way of The Samuel T. Daniels, Sr. Council of Deliberation Hiram Consistory No. 2.

CR0236 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating MWGM Kevin L. Barney Jr in recognition of his commitment to uplifting Prince Hall Ancient Craft & Scottish Rite masonry in Maryland byway of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Maryland and its jurisdiction, Inc.

CR0237 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating SGLLR Joycelyn Hill Johnson in recognition of her outstanding leadership to the citizens of Baltimore byway of your partnership with Hiram Consistory No. 2 and your commitment to uplifting Prince Hall Scottish Rite masonry in Maryland byway of The Willard W. Allen State Grand Assembly, OGC, PHA.

CR0238 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating SGIG Garnett Hall in recognition of your outstanding leadership to the citizens of Baltimore byway of Hiram Consistory No. 2 and your commitment to uplifting Prince Hall Scottish Rite masonry in Maryland byway of The Samuel T. Daniels, Sr. Council of Deliberation.

CR0239 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Roslyn Chandler Wood, December 4, 1928 – July 17, 2025

CR0240 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of James Jones, January 14, 1949 – July 15, 2025.

CR0241 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Morris Brown III, June 19, 1949 - July 15, 2025.

CR0242 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Patricia Ann Jefferson, April 3, 1947 – July 7, 2025.

CR0243 Vice President Middleton

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating the Park Lane Neighborhood Association in recognition of the Ribbon Cutting & Grand Reopening of Edgecombe Park.

CR0244 President Cohen, Gray, and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Lauren Mona Massenburg, December 30, 1987 – July 20, 2025.

CR0245 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Harry Junius Goings, January 2, 1928 – July 18, 2025.

CR0246 Gray

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Young Successful Leaders, Inc. in recognition of outstanding work empowering youth through leadership development, entrepreneurship training, financial literacy, and community engagement.

CR0247 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Engine 36 in recognition of years of life saving services and community partnership.

CR0248 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Qamryn Askew, Jovel Canada, Khloe Chester, Aaliyah Coles, Kevin Everette Jr, Kevin Horsey, Caleb Kurlantzick, Phoenix Mohapatra, Antonyo Moore, Margyn Rouse, Mason Russell, Yuvraj Singh, Syncere Earl, and Georgia Brooks-Campbell in recognition of your dedication and completion of the City Council President's YouthWorks Fellowship in summer 2025; we celebrate your achievement.

CR0249 Gray

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Morgan Davis in recognition of outstanding dedication and professional growth within the District 8 Office over the past three years.

CR0250 Jones

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Tristian Jennings in recognition of outstanding dedication and professional growth within the District 12 Office this summer.

CR0251 Gray

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Evelyn Brooks in recognition of 104 years of life and service to the community and City of Baltimore.

CR0252 Gray

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Ida Fliggins in recognition of her Annual Back to School Fair, impacting over 10,000 families and empowering youth for 15 years.

CR0253 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Deacon Ronald Thomas, June 2, 1949 - August 2, 2025.

CR0254 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Rebecca Foster, March 26, 1933 - July 30, 2025.

CR0255 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Sherman Thompson, Jr., April 7, 1940 - July 29, 2025.

CR0256 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Jeffery "Drew" Strong and Arisa Kimura in recognition of outstanding dedication and professional growth within the Office of the City Council President this summer.

CR0257 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Julia Alexander, May 25, 1967 - May 4, 2025.

CR0258 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Samuel Reginald Jordan, Jr., May 19, 1946 - August 1, 2025.