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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Ways and Means (WM) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. WM will exercise regular oversight of the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction includes budget & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Legislative Oversight #LO 21-0003

Budget Briefing – Bureau of Budget and Management Research

Fiscal Year 2022 Closeout – Status of/Update

**Fiscal Year 2023 Quarterly Projection
and**

Fiscal Year 2024 – Estimated Revenue Projection

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Ways and Means

Legislative Oversight # LO 21-0003

Budget Briefing – Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)

Purpose:

For the purpose of calling on the Director of the Finance Department’s Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) to brief the City Council on how the City’s actual finances compare to its budget projections.

Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Bureau of Budget & Management Research	
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Current Law

Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Sections 1-5 and 1-6

§ 1-5. Agencies to provide budget status reports.

(a) Reports required.

On or before November 1, February 1, May 1, and August 1 each year, the City agencies so requested shall file quarterly budget status reports with the Budget and Appropriations Committee of the City Council.

(b) Contents.

Each report shall contain the information required by the Committee and be in the format requested.

(c) Public hearing.

The Committee may hold a public hearing for those agencies not reporting or those showing a projected deficit for the fiscal year.

(d) “City agency” defined

The words “City agencies” include the City trustees and all City sponsored and financed nonprofit corporations. (City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §5.) (Ord. 72-211; Ord. 77-333; Ord. 81-568; Ord. 82-753.)

§ 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.

It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plats, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)

Background

On February 7, 2023, a representative(s) from the Bureau of Budget and Research Management came before the committee to discuss the first quarter projection for this fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2023); July 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022. The representative also gave an update regarding where the Department stood for closing the books for Fiscal Year 2022 which ended June 30, 2022; Fiscal Year 2022 closeout had not been finalized as of the day of this hearing.

Following are notes from the February 7, 2023 hearing.

Major Speakers

Robert (Bob) Cenname, Department of Finance

Laura Larsen, Department of Finance

Major Issues Discussed

1. The representative from BBMR gave a PowerPoint presentation. **However, just before giving the Presentation Mr. Cenname informed the committee that Closeout for Fiscal Year 2022 was not yet finalized. A copy of the Presentation is on file.** The Presentation included the following:
 - The status of fiscal year 2022 (ended June 30, 2022)
 - Revenue
 - Expenditures
 - Trends
 - Closeout Actions Required to date
 - Carry-Forward
 - Contingency Fund
 - Supplementals
 - Transfer
 - Legal Liabilities
 - First (1st) Quarter Projection for Fiscal Year 2023; ending September 30, 2022
 - Currently projecting a \$30.5 million surplus
 - Revenue is strong; but is steadily coming back to normalcy
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
 - Homeless Shelter – Page 11 of Presentation
 - Why is homeless shelter cost still under the Health Department instead of under Homeless Shelter?
 - Vandalism/Vacant Buildings
 - This is of concern
 - Comment: We need to invest in cameras to address this issue
 - Affordable House Trust Fund
 - **Requested by councilmember Ramos: Please submit the amount of revenue received for this fund**

- Vacancies
 - How have inflation impacted wages and is there any additional costs to the City?
 - Wage Study:
 - Is there any data available for this study:
 - **Response: Per Ms. Larsen – Will gather the information on these types of studies and submit to committee.**
3. Further Study – See requests noted in **“Red and Yellow highlights”** above.
 4. Hearing called to recess.

On May 2, 2023, a representative(s) from the Bureau of Budget and Research Management will come before the committee to give an update on the status of Fiscal Year 2022 Closeout; discuss the second quarter projection for fiscal year 2023; October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and present data/information regarding estimated revenue for **Fiscal Year 2024**; July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: A PowerPoint Presentation is anticipated.

Information Source(s): Notes taken during the February 7, 2023 hearing.

Marguerite M. Currin

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Date: April 27, 2023