



**HEARING NOTES**

**Resolution: 23-0201R**

**Information Hearing – Medical Waste Incinerators**

**Committee:** Health, Environment, and Technology

**Chaired by:** Councilman Mark Conway

**Hearing Date:** March 20, 2024

**Time (Beginning):** 10:10 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:41 AM

**Location:** Council Chambers

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 56

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

John Bullock                      Mark Conway

Phylicia Porter                      James Torrence

|  |   |                             |   |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Bill Synopsis in the file?</b> .....                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A            |
| <b>Attendance sheet in the file?</b> .....                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A            |
| <b>Agency reports read?</b> .....                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A            |
| <b>Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?</b> .....            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A            |
| <b>Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?</b> ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> YES            | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <b>Evidence of notification to property owners?</b> .....              | <input type="checkbox"/> YES            | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <b>Final vote taken at this hearing?</b> .....                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A            |
| <b>Motioned by:</b> .....  | Porter                                  |                             |   |
| <b>Seconded by:</b> .....  | Torrence                                |                             |   |
| <b>Final Vote:</b> .....   | Favorable                               |                             |   |

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Marsha Collins, Department of Public Works
- Laura Larson, Department of Finance
- Julia Roche, Baltimore City Health Department
- Dr. Chris Heeney, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Dr. Melanie Thomas, South Baltimore Community Land Trust
- Gwen DuBois, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

- Bob McClain, John Hopkins
- David Jones, Curtis Bay
- Tiffany Thompson, Curtis Bay Community Association
- Meleny Thomas, Curtis Bay
- Rachel DeMada, MedStar Health Corporate Director of Environmental Readiness
- Greg Sawtell, Curtis Bay
- Carlos Sanchez, Lakeland
- Nicole Fabricant, Resident

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### **Major Issues Discussed**

1. The primary focus of the hearing was on the environmental justice implications and public health concerns associated with medical waste incineration, particularly in the South Baltimore communities of Curtis Bay and Brooklyn.
2. Councilwoman Porter highlighted the dangers of toxic emissions from incinerators, including dioxins, heavy metals, and carcinogens, and emphasized the disproportionate impact on frontline communities.
3. Residents and advocates expressed concerns about the detrimental effects of incineration on air and water quality, as well as the overall quality of life in affected neighborhoods.
4. There was extensive discussion about the history of violations and environmental injustices related to the medical waste facility in South Baltimore.
5. Past incidents, such as illegal waste importation, bankruptcy filings due to pollution charges, and violations of emissions standards, were cited as evidence of ongoing environmental harm.
6. The community's advocacy efforts and resilience in documenting pollution incidents and pushing for accountability were highlighted as key factors in addressing these injustices.
7. Representatives from city agencies, including the Department of Public Works and the Baltimore City Health Department, clarified their limited roles in regulating and monitoring air quality and waste management facilities.
8. The hearing highlighted the importance of community monitoring efforts in documenting pollution incidents and holding polluters accountable.
9. Dr. Chris Heeney from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health presented data analysis of pollution incidents captured through community monitoring using trail cameras.
10. The findings, including the frequency and duration of pollution events, underscored the need for greater transparency, regulatory oversight, and action to address environmental injustices and protect public health in affected communities.

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### **Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

Yes  No

**If yes, describe.**

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**Committee Vote:**

D. McCray: .....Absent  
J. Bullock: .....Yea  
M. Conway: .....Yea  
R. Dorsey: .....Absent  
P. Porter: .....Yea  
J. Torrence: .....Yea  
I. Schleifer: .....Absent

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*Deontre Hayes*

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

Date: March 21, 2024

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
HEALTH, ENVIORNMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
VOTING RECORD**

**RESOLUTION#:** 23-0201R

**DATE:** March 20, 2024

**TITLE:** Informational Hearing - Medical Waste Incinerators

**MOTION BY:** Porter      **SECONDED BY:** Torrence

**FAVORABLE**

**FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**UNFAVORABLE**

**WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

| NAME          | YEAS                                | NAYS                     | ABSENT                              | ABSTAIN                  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| McCray, D.    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bullock, J.   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway, M.    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dorsey, R.    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schleifer, I. | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Porter, P.    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Torrence, J.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                                     |                          |                                     |                          |

*Mark Conway*  
**CHAIR:** ~~Danielle McCray~~ x *Mark D. Conway*

**COMMITTEE STAFF:** Deontre Hayes, Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b> Council Resolution – Informational Hearing - Medical Waste Incinerators | 23-0201R                      |
| <b>Committee:</b> Health, Environment, and Technology                                   | <b>Chair:</b> Danielle McCray |
| <b>Date:</b> Wednesday, March 20, 2024  | <b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM         |
| <b>Location:</b> 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 |
| Gwen       | DeBois    | Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility          | ✓       |                                     |         |  |    |
| Bob        | McLern    | John Hopkins   | ✓       |                                     |         |  |    |
| David      | Jones     | Curtis Bay   | ✓       |                                     |         |  | ✓  |
| Tiffany    | Thompson  | Curtis Bay Community Assoc<br>tiphani.thompson@gmail.com | ✓       |                                     |         |  |    |
| Melany     | Thomas    | Curtis Bay   |         |                                     |         |  |    |
| Rachel     | DeMunda   | MedStar Health   | ✓       |                                     |         |  |    |
| Greg       | Sawtell   | Curtis Bay / SBCLT                                       | ✓       |                                     |         |  |    |
| Carlos     | Sanchez   | Lakeland / SBCLT   | ✓       |                                     |         |  | ✓  |

\*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



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Subject: <b>Council Resolution</b> – Informational Hearing - Medical Waste Incinerators | 23-0201R               |
| Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology  | Chair: Danielle McCray |
| Date: <b>Wednesday, March 20, 2024</b>  | Time: 10:00 AM         |
| Location: <b>Council Chambers</b>   |                        |

| <b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>         |           |                                |                | What is your position on this bill? |         | Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?* |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------|--|----|
| <b><u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u></b> |           |                                |                |                                     |         |  |    |
| First Name                          | Last Name | Address / Organization / Email | <b>Testify</b> | For                                 | Against | Yes  | No |
| Nicole                              | fabricant | 403 Hollen Road                | X              |                                     |         |  |    |
|                                     |           |                                |                |                                     |         |  |    |
|                                     |           |                                |                |                                     |         |  |    |
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# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Health, Environment, and Technology

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Wednesday, March 20, 2024

10:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2341 734 7207, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?  
MTID=m0724b7005b2735b02ebba361c828e24d](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m0724b7005b2735b02ebba361c828e24d)

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23-0201R

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

- Present** 4 - John T. Bullock, Mark Conway, Phylicia Porter, and James Torrence
- Excused** 1 - Danielle N. McCray
- Absent** 2 - Ryan Dorsey, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

#### ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### [23-0201R](#)

##### **Informational Hearing - Medical Waste Incinerators**

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Baltimore Health Department, Baltimore City hospitals, institutions that make use of medical waste incinerators in Baltimore City, and any other relevant stakeholders to discuss: (1) which local hospitals send waste to medical incinerators in Baltimore City and which local hospitals do not; (2) what, if any, oversight mechanisms these hospitals have in place over their hazardous waste disposal service contracts; (3) the sustainability and environmental justice commitments local hospitals have made and how those commitments may conflict with service contracts the hospitals have with medical waste incineration companies that have long histories of environmental violations; and (4) what hospitals intend to do in the immediate future to mitigate the negative effects of their medical waste disposal on Baltimore's communities.

**Sponsors:** Phylicia Porter, John T. Bullock

**A motion was made by Porter, seconded by Torrence, that this City Council Resolution be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Bullock, Conway, Porter, and Torrence
- Absent:** 2 - Dorsey, and "Yitzy" Schleifer

***ADJOURNMENT***