

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0058

Real Property Tax – Installment Plans

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello

Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Time (Beginning): 11:35 AM
Time (Ending): 12:35 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello Kristerfer Burnett
Robert Stokes, Sr. Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray Sharon Green Middleton

Excused: Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer (Jewish Holiday)

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Agency reports read? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [ ] yes [ ] no [X] n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? [ ] yes [ ] no [X] n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Motioned by: Councilmember Middleton
Seconded by: Councilmember Dorsey
Final Vote: Favorable/Amendments

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Kathleen Kelleher, Department of Real Estate/Office of the Comptroller
• Todd Carter, Baltimore City Information Technology
• Michael Leary, Department of Housing and Community Development

- Kimberly Rubens, Department of Housing and Community Development
  - Hilary Ruley, Law Department
  - Henry Raymond, Department of Finance
  - Allison Harris, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
  - Margaret Henn, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
  - Shana Roth-Gormley, Attorney
  - Nneka Nnamdi, Speaker
- 

### Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Ramos, primary sponsor of the Ordinance gave opening remarks. She talked about what the Bill is designed to do. She also talked about the proposed amendments she submitted.
2. Committee/councilmembers went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
  - The representative from the Department of Finance talked a little more about what the bill does stating:
    - It will have a fiscal impact (2 additional positions will be needed)
    - More/updated software needed
    - Is working closely with the BCIT Office, and
    - Talked about why the Department requested the date to be extended by one year
3. Committee/councilmembers asked the representative from the Department of Finance questions and talked about some of their concerns. Some highlights of same were:
  - Concerns/Comments
    - Several thoughts, comments and concerns requiring past rollouts such as:
      - Monthly payments established by the Department of Public Works
      - How water billing system was rolled out
      - The complexities associated with bringing a new system on-line and making a sound commitment to meet the January 2023 deadline
      - Concern: To make sure this is done right!
    - Comment: Hope the installment plan is successful and you have to think ahead to prepare for good outcomes
  - Question(s)
    - Is January 2023 a reasonable time/deadline to have the plan implemented? What is your take on this?
      - **Per Director Raymond – “Out of your concerns, the Department is requesting six (6) additional months (until July 1, 2023) to complete the plan. However, our goal will be to have the plan completed by January 1, 2023.”**
4. Four (4) speakers gave public testimony; all in support of the Ordinance. Some highlighted from their testimonies were:
  - Talked about the impact and hardships associated with tax sales
  - Many clients are over seventy (70) years of age
  - Homeowners are made vulnerable by the way the system is currently setup to pay their property taxes, this bill will help and make things more affordable
  - Concern: Choosing the right vendor; must be qualified to develop the system and capable to do the processes needed

5. A Motion was made to vote on amendments; Motion was favorable. A motion was made to vote on the bill favorable with amendments. Motion passed. Hearing concluded.

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**Further Study**

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

1. At the request of Committee member Stokes, "After the vendor for the new system is selected please come back before the committee to give an update."
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**Committee Vote:**

E. Costello:.....Yea  
K. Burnett:.....Yea  
R. Dorsey: .....Yea  
D. McCray: .....Yea  
S. Green Middleton: .....Yea  
I. Schleifer: .....Excused  
R. Stokes, Sr.: .....Yea

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: September 29, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
VOTING RECORD**

DATE: 9-28-21

BILL #: 21-0058

BILL TITLE: Real Property Tax – Installment Plans

MOTION BY: Middleton      SECONDED BY: Dorsey

FAVORABLE

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

UNFAVORABLE

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Costello, Eric - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, Kristerfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, Ryan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCray, Danielle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stokes, Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Eric T. Costello *E.T. Costello / m.m.c.*

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: m.m.c.



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> Council Bill – Real Property Tax – Installment Plans	<b>Bill #:</b> 21-0058
<b>Committee:</b> Ways and Means	<b>Chair:</b> Eric T. Costello
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, September 28, 2021	<b>Time:</b> 11:01 AM
<b>Location:</b> WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<u>Testify</u>	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>see hearing notes</i>					

\*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

### Ways and Means

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Tuesday, September 28, 2021

11:01 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 179 454 4543, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e799cf47aeb212335cd9bd96bc6fe177c)  
MTID=e799cf47aeb212335cd9bd96bc6fe177c

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21-0058  
CHARM TV 25

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 6 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Robert Stokes Sr.  
**Excused** 1 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 21-0058

##### **Real Property Tax - Installment Plans**

For the purpose of authorizing that the real property taxes to be owed on certain properties may be paid through a monthly installment plan; establishing the maximum term for an installment payment plan in accordance with State law; requiring the Director of Finance to adopt regulations to implement this subtitle; defining certain terms; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to installment payments of real property taxes in Baltimore City.

**Sponsors:** Odette Ramos, John T. Bullock, Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Antonio Glover, Kristerfer Burnett, Zeke Cohen, Mark Conway, James Torrence, Robert Stokes, Sr.

A motion was made by member Middleton, seconded by member Dorsey, that Ordinance 21-0058 be recommended Favorably with Amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 6 - Costello, Burnett, Dorsey, McCray, Middleton, and Stokes Sr.

#### ADJOURNMENT