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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*Council Resolution 25-0021R*

**Informational Hearing – Well-being of Lesbian Women in Baltimore**

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Paris Gray  
*Staff: Ethan Navarre (410-396-1266)*



## **BILL SYNOPSIS**

**Committee: Public Health and Environment**

**Council Resolution: 25-0021R**

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### **Informational Hearing – Well-being of Lesbian Women in Baltimore**

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**Sponsor:** *Councilmembers Porter, et al*

**Introduced:** *April 28, 2025*

**Purpose:**

**FOR the purpose** of inviting representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to, and the general well-being of, lesbian women in Baltimore.

Effective: Upon enactment.

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## **Analysis**

### **Background**

The committee held its first hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Following are notes taken during the hearing:

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## Major Speakers

- Alexis Blackmon, Office of LGBTQ Affairs
- Zachary Wellman, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Major Jenkins, Baltimore City Police Department
- Melissa Broome, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Keisha Howard, Mental Health Coordinator

## Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks.
2. Chairwoman Porter went over the agency reports and/or had discussion with the agency representatives.
3. An attendee gave public testimony. Some highlighted comments and/or topics of her discussion were:
  - Thanked everyone for advocating on behalf of the community
  - Baltimore City Health Department is doing a good job working with the community!
  - We need to continue to create programs for people who have mental health issues
    - More programs are need for all people who have mental health issues
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - Question(s)
    - Inter-Partner Violence is a huge issue and often goes unrecorded!
      - To Health Department - What are you doing to address same?
      - How does your training translate to the community?
    - To Police Department: When incidents are reported for inter-partner violence how do you address same and work with other agencies?
      - To Health Department - What are you doing to address same?
    - How do you talk about and track progress within communities?
  - Comments:
    - Committee member(s) thanked Chairwoman Porter for breaking out three (3) separate Resolutions
    - “We are keeping an eye on Washington, D.C., we know it is a tough time now, but you have our support.”
4. Chairwoman Porter informed the attendees that there will be an amendment(s) to the Resolution(s); to include other pertinent populations that were missed in the current Resolutions. Hearing recessed.
5. **Further Study** - None

On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the committee will reconvene the hearing.

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## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Notes taken during June 11, 2025, committee hearing.

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Analysis by: Marguerite Currin  
Analysis Date: December 1, 2025

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