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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Finance and Performance (FP)* is responsible for matters concerning fiscal oversight throughout the year. FP will improve the Council's understanding of the City's budget and to understand how agencies are performing and delivering city services, in addition to reviewing their spending throughout the year. FP will hold regular hearings on financial information, including, revenue, budgets, and audits. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include:

- Fiscal Oversight
- Budget Process
- Agency Performance
- Quarterly Budget Hearings
- Agency Performance Hearings
- Audit Oversight
- Revenue Certification

**The Honorable John T. Bullock  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024  
3:00 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Legislative Oversight LO21-0003**

**Quarterly Budget Briefings**

**Bureau of Budget and Management Research**

**Quarterly Projection**

**Capital Budget**

**An Update**

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)**

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair  
John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

## **WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)**

Mark Conway – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)*

## **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE (FP)**

John Bullock, Chair  
Eric Costello, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Danielle McCray  
Phylicia Porter  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)**

President Nick Mosby, Chair  
All City Council Members  
*Staff: Larry Greene (410-396-7215)*

## **EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)**

Robert Stokes – Chair  
John Bullock  
Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

## **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)**

Danielle McCray – Chair  
John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

## **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Eric Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)*

## **LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



## BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee:** Finance and Performance

**Legislative Oversight # LO 21-0003**

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### Quarterly Budget Briefings Bureau of Budget and Management Research Capital Budget

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Costello, et al

**Introduced:** January 25, 2021

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose** of calling on the Directors of the Finance Department's Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR), Capital Budget and the Baltimore City Public School to brief the City Council on how the City's actual finances compare to its budget projections.

**Effective:** On the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted

**Note:** This Legislative Oversight does not require a committee vote and will remain active until the end of the term.

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### Agencies Reporting

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Finance – Bureau of Budget and Management Research | PowerPoint Presentation to be shown |
| Capital Budget                                     | PowerPoint Presentation to be shown |

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### Analysis

#### Current Law

**Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, 1-6**

**§ 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 Thursday, December 7, 2023, representative(s) from the Bureau of Budget and Research Management (BBMR), and the Planning Department came before the committee to discuss quarterly projections.

Following are notes from the December 7<sup>th</sup> hearing:

### Major Speakers

- Laura Larsen, Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)
- Nichole Stewart, Planning (Capital Budget)

### Major Issues Discussed

1. The representatives from BBMR and the Planning Department (Capital Budgeting), gave PowerPoint Presentations. **Copies are on file.** Following are notes from the hearing.
  - BBMR
    - The representative from BBMR gave a briefing regarding the first quarter spending for Fiscal Year 2024 – July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023.
  - Capital Budget
    - The Presentation included information about the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024
      - Including recommendations for the six (6) year Capital Improvement Program
      - Capital Budget and Expenditure Analysis Limitations
      - Handout displaying (list of Projects, project numbers and the Agencies receiving capital projections) a summary of FY2024 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Spending
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - BBMR
    - Chairman Bullock asked the representative from BBMR to talk more about the decline in revenue from Property Tax collections, what caused the decreased, he asked.
    - A committee member inquired about the status Highway User Revenue
    - Department of Transportation - DOT
      - Snow cost for DOT, what is budgeted?
        - Are you anticipating exceeding their budget for snow costs this year?
    - Department of Public Works
      - Contractual expenses – talk more about these expenses.
    - Fire Department
      - Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 budget (Service 609)
        - Why was the budget increased so much?
  - Capital Budget
    - Question(s)
      - None
3. Hearing was called to recess.

4. On Thursday, February 29, 2024, representatives from BBMR and the Planning Department (Capital Budget) will come before the committee to present their quarterly budget briefing(s).
  5. **Note:** Baltimore City Public Schools and Office of Recovery Programs (ARPA) presented their quarterly budget briefing on Thursday, February 15, 2024; therefore, will not be present at the upcoming/stated hearing.
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### **Additional Information**

**Fiscal Note:** See PowerPoint Presentations – to be shown during the hearing.

**Information Source(s):** Hearing Notes:

- Notes taken during the December 7th hearing.
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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin  
Analysis Date: February 26, 2024

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