



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO21-0003

**Budget Briefing**  
**Bureau of Budget and Management Research**

**Committee:** Finance and Performance  
**Chaired by:** Councilman John T. Bullock  
**Hearing Date:** Thursday, February 29, 2024  
**Time (Beginning):** 3:10 PM  
**Time (Ending):** 4:05 PM  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 15 In-Person  
Approximately 05 Virtually

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

John T. Bullock  
Phylcia Porter

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read. ....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

This legislative oversight will remain open throughout the legislative term; no vote will be taken; quarterly budget hearings.

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Bob Cename, Bureau of Budget and Management Research – BBMR
- Ty’lor Schnella, Mayor’s Office

**Major Issues Discussed**

1. The representatives from BBMR gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **Copies are on file.** Following are notes from the hearing.

- **BBMR**
  - This quarter the Bureau is projecting an overall surplus
  - Revenue received has improved and if continued, City will not have to use the Fund Balance
  - Discussed the areas for:
    - Projected Surpluses
    - Projected Deficits
  - The Parking Authority of Baltimore City has approximately 35 vacancies
  - The largest projected deficit is within the Fire Department due to overtime cost
  - The average vacancy rate for City government is approximately 20%
- **Capital Budget**
  - **Note: Projections and/or a Presentation for Capital Budget was not given during this hearing.**
  - **Chairman Bullock asked the representative from the Mayor's Office to explain the reason(s) why representatives from Capital Budget were unable to attend the hearing.**

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 impact of and/or Transfer/Recordation Taxes
  - Investment Earnings – Walk us through the process for same
  - Concern: Number of vacancies for School Health Worker positions
    - How can we fill these needed positions?
    - We need to reduce those vacancies
  - Talk about the appeal process pertaining to Property Taxes
    - Do you think the collection rate for Real Property will eventually decline?
  - How many employees work in the Tax Sales Collection Unit?
    - Concern: Timeliness of mailing out notifications
    - Need to be proactive!
  - Deficit within Fire Department
    - Do you have any additional information about the deficit and/or any potential solutions that you may want to share?
  - Per Member Porter: Can you (BBMR) share some of your recommendations to improve operations during the upcoming budget season?

3. Hearing called to recess.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?  
If yes, describe.**

Yes  No

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File

Date: March 7, 2024



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Legislative Oversight</span> – Budget Briefings – Finance (BBMR) and Capital Budget	<b>#LO21-0003</b>
<b>Committee:</b> Finance and Performance	<b>Chair:</b> John T. Bullock
<b>Date:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Thursday, February 29, 2024</span>	<b>Time:</b> 3:00 PM
<b>Location:</b> Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

What is your position on this bill?

Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?\*

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<b>Testify</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bob	Cernane	Finance					
Ty'lor	Schnella	Mayor's Office					

\*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

### Finance and Performance Committee

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Thursday, February 29, 2024

3:00 PM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2342 046 3925, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m09e536c9864bebae8e7689abe6af1b91)  
MTID=m09e536c9864bebae8e7689abe6af1b91

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**Present** 2 - John T. Bullock, and Chair Phylcia Porter

**Absent** 3 - Chair Eric T. Costello, Chair Danielle N. McCray, and Chair Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

##### LO21-0003

##### **Budget Briefing**

For the purpose of calling on the Director of the Finance Department's Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) as well as the Director for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) to brief the City Council on how the City's actual finances and School's finances compare to its budget projections.

Hearing was called to recess.

#### **REPORTING AGENCY - BBMR**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**