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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Legislative Investigations Committee is to ensure open, accessible and accountable government. The Committee will hold prompt and thorough hearings on all Executive Nominations. Additionally, the Committee will oversee enforcement of Ethics Rules and will monitor and review Rules of the City Council.

**The Honorable Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
4:30 PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Legislative Oversight LO25-0012

Investigative Hearing–Bureau of Solid Waste and Department of Public Works

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BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Legislative Investigations

Legislative Oversight # LO 25-0012

Investigative Hearing -Bureau of Solid Waste and Department of Public Works

Sponsor: Councilmember Schleifer, et al

Introduced: February 10, 2025

Purpose:

For the purpose of requiring the leadership of the Department of Public Works to address issues of workplace safety in the Solid Waste Division, with specific attention to all applicable occupational health and safety laws, training, facility and equipment safety, fair and equitable treatment of employees. This hearing follows Inspector General Isabel Cumming’s issuance on March 5, 2025, of an Investigative Report Synopsis regarding DPW’s organizational culture.

Effective: **This Legislative Oversight does not require a committee vote.**

Agencies Reporting

Department of Public Works	
Office of the Inspector General	PowerPoint Presentation to be shown
AFSCME Union	Representative(s) to attend
CUB Union	Representative(s) to attend

Analysis

Current Law

Baltimore City Charter – Article VII, Executive Departments - Subtitle 27: Subsections 27 through 42, outlines the establishment, rules, regulations and mandates associated with the **Department of Public Works**
§ 27. Department of Public Works: Established

Baltimore City Charter – Article VII, General Provisions: Subtitle 2: Bureaus and Divisions

§ 2. Bureaus and Divisions

(a) Establishment or abolishment

(1) With the approval of the Board of Estimates, the City Administrator may establish and abolish bureaus and divisions within that (any municipal) department, commission, or board (except as otherwise provided for the Department of Public Works)

(2) Bureaus in the Department of Public Works shall be established or abolished from time to time by an Ordinance which shall have been recommended to the City Council by the Board of Estimates and shall have been duly passed by the City Council by a majority vote of its members and shall have been approved by the Mayor.

Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies – Subtitle 17: Department of Public Works -Subsections 17-1 thru 17-3 outlines the power and duties of the Bureau of Solid of Waste

§17-1 . 2. Bureaus of Department

(a) Enumerated

The Department of Public Works comprises of the following Bureaus:

- (1) Bureau of Solid Waste; and
- (2) Bureau of Water and Wastewater

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.

Background

For the past year or longer, attention has been drawn to the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Solid Waste which is under the Department’s management .

Voiced concerns have been expressed in the media, by residents and employees of the Department. Some concerns expressed are and/or were:

- Exposed adverse working conditions
- Safety Issues
- Negative culture in workplace
- Workforce protection and infrastructure
- Heatstroke(s), and
- Workers’ strike

On June 5, 2024, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint regarding the Department of Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste. The OIG investigation began and continued throughout the summer and fall of 2024. As a result of the investigation, on March 5, 2024, the OIG published its findings. [See report with this link.](#)

On Thursday, March 20, 2025 the Legislative Investigations Committee will hold a hearing to discuss this matter with several agency representatives and other pertinent parties.

On March 17, 2024, a memorandum was sent to the members of this committee, to serve as an overview and/or recommendations to consider during the hearing on March 20, 2025. [See memorandum with this link.](#)

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Applicable

Information Source(s): City Charter, City Code, Investigative Report – OIG Case #25-0004-I and discussions with members of the Council President’s staff.

Marguerite M. Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
Analysis Date: March 18, 2025

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