



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Date: June 7, 2022

Budget Hearings – Day Six – June 7, 2022

Health Department

Time (Beginning): 9:15 AM
Time (Ending) 11:35 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40

Planning Department and Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM
Time (Ending) 1:55 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)

Time (Beginning): 3:05 PM
Time (Ending) 3:45 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Department of General Services (DGS)

Time (Beginning): 4:00 PM
Time (Ending) 5:15 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 25

Police Department

Time (Beginning): 6:10 PM
Time (Ending) 1:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 85

Committee Members in Attendance: Day Six

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

Excused Absence: Kristerfer Burnett and Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input 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.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Letitia Dzirasa, Health Commissioner
 Chris Ryer, Planning Commission
 Eric Holcomb Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation
 MacKenzie Garvin, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
 Chichi Nguyen-Nash, Department of General Services
 Berke Attila, Department of General Services
 Michael Harrison, Baltimore City Police Department

Major Issues Discussed

June 7, 2022 – Day Six – Budget Hearings

1. Six (6) agency representatives came before the committee/councilmembers to talk about his/her fiscal year 2023 budget proposal. **Copies of all PowerPoint Presentations are on file**
2. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. And, if applicable went over the responses to letters of information sent to them. Some highlights of same were:

I. Health Department

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Comments
 - Chairman Costello and other council/committee members thanked Dr. Dzirasa and her team for the good work of the Department
 - Our Health Department serves as a national model!
 - Dead Animal Collection/Animal Control/Needle Collections
 - What is the law and/or process for picking up or removing dead animals/birds/etc.?

- Animal Control – Do you have enough staff and resources for what you are required to do? What are the duties of the staff in Animal Control?
 - Concern: Unleashed dogs in parks; sometimes can be scary!
 - What are your plans to partner with the Park Rangers on this issue?
- BARSC is reaching its capacity! Do you have any partnerships to help with this issue?
 - Concern: Stray animals and not having the resources to house them!
- **Per Chairman Costello, “Please research and provide feedback about:**
 - **What other major cities are doing to combat:**
 - **Dead Rat Collections, and**
 - **Needle Collections**
- Animal Hearing Panel
 - Who is on the panel?
 - Are they paid? **Answer: Yes**
 - Who appoints them?
 - Is the Hearing Panel like an Appeals’ Panel?
 - What are their roles?
 - Do we know if any other panels/boards that are appointed by an agency instead of being appointed by the Mayor?
 - Have you made any appointments to the Panel since being in your position?
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide a roster to include the names of the panelists and the date when they were appointed to the panel.**
 - To Law Department: Do you see any reason why changing the appointments to the Mayor and City Council instead?
- **Per Chairman Costello, “Provide a follow-up on your plan to procure a hazard waste contract.”**
- School Nurses/Health Aides – Service 310
 - How do you plan to build the gap in these services for children who are at home? “A workforce pipe line?”
 - What are the qualifications for school nurses?
 - Have you applied for ARPA funding for school nurses?
 - How many nurses do you have? **Answer: Approximately 50 nurses and 150 aides**
 - **Requested by Member Stokes: Provide a list of the schools that actually have nurses and aides**
- Pandemic – Next Phase
 - Is of concern
 - Mental health issues
 - Increased drug usage
 - Increased violence and etc.
 - This is an increased sense of urgency!
 - We are seeing “hurt people” all across our nation!
 - What do you plan to do to address the mental health crisis?

- We can't just call the police department when mental health problem arises in neighborhoods!
- Baltimore City has the potential to be a national model!
- How are we geared up for:
 - Boosters, vaccinations, contact tracing and etc.?
 - How will you pay for it?
- Kirwan
 - Is the funding from Kirwan coming out of your budget or from BCPS? **Answer: BCPS, \$3 million**
- Healthy Homes
 - Lead and mold – do you relocate families when it is detected?
- Reproductive Health
 - Roe vs. Wade – was reversed – is of concern
 - Expect to see a large influx of women coming to the City for reproductive health due to same
 - How is your department preparing for this and who may be some of your partners?
 - Have you been thinking about this shift?
 - Will you have any role in training in this area of reproduction health?
- Seniors/Older Population
 - The low rate of wills and state planning – is of concern
 - What type of legal advice is being provided?
 - Do you have any legal partnerships?
 - Comments regarding the importance of communicating with seniors!
- Recovery Houses, Recovery and Overdoses
 - Concern – recovery houses that are selling drugs!
 - How do you address these complaints and/or issues?
 - Have heard both good and bad reports about recovery houses!
 - Are our housing inspectors engaged when issues come up in recovery houses?
 - **Requested by Member Cohen: Provide, “what is the local law and what is the role of housing inspectors?”**
 - Unfortunately, there are some bad operators of recovery houses out there!
 - Do we have the ability to revoke licenses? If not, are we able to make sure operators comply with laws?
- Treatment Centers
 - Baltimore City have a significant concentration of treatment centers; this can cause problems
 - Our city should not be the only place for these centers!
 - Have you begun to partner with state level folks?
 - Comment: We can not discriminate against treatment centers!

II. Planning Department and Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Tax Credits
 - How much revenue received for Historic Tax Credits? **Answer: \$1.2 billion in investments from credit projects**
 - Have you thought about expanding coverage of tax credits?

- The application process is very involved and a person can be denied! Is there a way to streamline the process?
- Flooding at 35th and Hillen Road – can you talk about this?
- Capital Projects
 - Requested by Member Ramos on behalf of Member Burnett: Provide the map and list for capital projects, by district.
 - What is the possibility of switching from a six (6) year capital budget to a three (3) year capital budget plan to help get projects completed faster?
 - Requested by Member Torrence: Would like a meeting to discuss changing the capital budget approach.
- What is the Sustainability Sub-cabinet?
- What is the status of greenway trails?
- What is the status of the Sustainability Plan?
- Where are we with zero waste?

III. Mayor's Office of Employment Development

- The representative from MOED gave opening remarks, some were:
 - COVID
 - COVID have impacted their Office and their partners as well
 - Talked about some virtual services that helped their Office during COVID
 - Youth Works Program
 - Starts on July 5, 2022 for a period of 4 to 5 weeks
- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Job Hub – is excited to have on in the 14th district!
 - Spanish Speaking Language
 - How many partners do you have that speak Spanish?
 - How many staff members speak Spanish? Answer: **Three (3) employees**
 - Youth Works Program
 - Comment: Thank you for helping keep our youth busy!
 - Year-Round Youth Works Program
 - There has been some discussion regarding this; talk about this
 - Comments regarding Lyft rides available for youth workers
 - Requested by Member Middleton: Provide: An updated job list to include:
 - Names
 - Emails, and
 - Job titles
 - Ex-Offenders/Apprenticeship Program
 - Are you working with ex-offenders that are just from the city or from around the State of Maryland?
 - Returning citizens/Released inmates – What is the process for helping them adjust?
 - It is my understanding that an apprenticeship program is at the City Jail!
 - Budget

There is a lot of grant funding in your budget! What percentage of your budget is grant funded? Answer: **2/3 of the budget**
 - African American Male Engagement Office
 - Do you partner with them? Servicing young men on the streets!

- Do you provide any services to homeless youth?

IV. Department of General Services

- New Director for DGS – Mr. Berke Attila
- Ms. Nguyen-Nash introduced the new Director for DGS, stating he was hired just five (5) days ago.
- She also stated, “The city has 14 surplus school buildings that are vacant and the utilities and water is still on in all buildings. It is an ongoing battle to stay on top of the maintenance of these buildings, she said.”
- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Surplus School Buildings
 - These building becomes a quick burden and eyesore for the community and council members!
 - When BCPS hand over these buildings do they have any idea for uses?
 - Comments:
 - Suggest investing in steel doors and security cameras for these buildings
 - It seems like there is an organized group that goes into the buildings to vandalize and steal!
 - Can you invest in security cameras? **Answer: Security guards are on sites**
 - Does DGS have a long-term plan for maintaining city owned non-vacant buildings? And, what are the processes for same?
 - Fleet/Gas Prices
 - Are you investing in electric vehicles?
 - Request for Services – do you track them?
 - Can you walk us through what is needed once the city takes ownership of a vehicle(s)?
 - How many in total (number of vehicles) you have in your fleet/inventory?
 - How many are actually needed?
 - What is the bare minimum of vehicles needed at a given time? **Answer: 309**
 - Baltimore Police Department – Fleet
 - What is the status of their vehicles?
 - What does their fleet look like?
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide the number of vehicles planned to be purchased in fiscal year 2023**
 - If an elevator breaks down and I’m an employee, what do I do?
 - Fire Apparatus
 - Concern: Repairs on truck engines not completed in a timely manner
 - How many new trucks are forthcoming? **Answer: Five in total**
 - **Requested by Member Ramos: Provide in written the average time a fire apparatus is out for repair.**
 - How are things going with Workday? Do you have any problems?
 - **Requested by Member Ramos: Provide a list of all DGS Properties; vacant and occupied**

V. Police Department

- Commissioner Harrison introduced his staff and talked about the letter sent to him by the council/committee members. He briefly talked about his “dedication,” to the job. Also stating the crossing guard positions have move to the Department of Transportation’s budget.

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Chairman Costello gave opening remarks stating, “The condition of our Police Department is broken; there have to be:
 - A short-term approach
 - A long-term approach, and
 - A middle approach
 - He talked about violent crime in the city stating, ‘It has gotten to be a new norm?’
 - The 11th district is very diverse and we hope to get answers tonight, he said.”
 - Deployment of Officers
 - What plans can you offer to meet the request of the Council?
 - What is the role of the District Action Teams?
 - Do their schedules change? **Answer: Yes**
 - Requested by Member Middleton: Provide the following information for past two (2) years for each month by category for each district:
 - Number of drug arrests
 - Number of firearm arrests
 - Number of the search and seizure warrants
 - Questions
 - Of the 134 officers who are on medical leave, how many are eligible for retirement?
 - How many hours per day and per shift do detectives spend on the streets?
 - How many hours do they spend on the streets to investigate sex crimes?
 - Is there a summer plan for the Eastern district?
 - Are you zooming in on the 3 to 5 nuisance areas?
 - What accountability measures are you using for these areas?
 - Police Stat – are you holding weekly meetings with officers?
 - Does each district have a Crime Analysis Unit? **Answer: Yes**
 - Do you research details of cross jurisdictional strategies from other counties and/or entities?
 - Is there anything in writing to verify your verbal meetings with other counties?
 - Have you requested additional sworn officers from surrounding counties? **Answer: Yes**
 - I am asking you to ask for more!
 - I don’t believe we have enough officers or resources! It is up to you to ask for assistance! You are responsible for execution!
 - To boost your clearance rate, have you received help from the federal and state levels?
 - What work has been done on these levels?
 - Is there anything the Council can do the help and/or assist?
 - Requested by President Mosby: Provide the federal and state level support you have received, (i.e. DEA, FBI, State Police, and etc.) to include:
 - Who you spoke with, and
 - Details of what you asked for
 - Is there a plan for the “clutter of violence” that happens around the same time?

- Do you have a plan to address the open-air drug market?
- Do officers get disciplined when they say they can't do his/her job because of the Consent Decree? **Answer: No, but training is provided to them**
- Micro Zone Strategies – Was this used in previous years? What is being done differently? What measures of success are you using?
- What are the most pressing issues in your office today?
- How many people work in communications?
 - How many techs do you sent out a day on average?
- How are the youth getting guns?
- Does the department have a re-entry program? **Answer: No but partners with MONSE.**
- Warrant Services
 - How many unserved warrants are on file?
 - How will you clear your backlog?
 - How do you audit the warrant services?
 - What is the strategy for closing warrants?
- What does accountability for failure look like?
 - Demotions, or etc.
 - When do we get to the point when crime within a district becomes unbearable?
 - Can a Commander thrive in the areas of mentoring and training but fail when it (in the area of) comes to violent crime?
 - When the number of patrol officers decreased what affect did this have on the department?
- Where are we with “Civilization?” **Answer: At 18%**
 - Would like the number of districts reduced
- How do you account for density?
- How do you detect abuse of overtime?
- Where are we with rape kits and how can we move forward with cases?
- What percentage of calls are for violent crimes?
- What percentage of the daily calls relate to 911 calls?
- Are internal complaints increasing or decreasing?
- Comments
 - Per Chairman Costello, “Plan to meet with you on a daily basis until all issues pertaining to false alarm reduction have been resolved.”
 - Changing culture in terms of trust; need to think strategically about the situation(s) at hand!
 - Some residents don't even know which district he/she lives in nor know who the District Commanders are!
 - Want to simply the way residents interact with each other
 - Concern: Having four (4) different districts within a 2 to 4 block radius
 - Want to know what your available strength(s) is!
 - Being grossly understaffed every time I heard from your department; the more I believe we are living in a fiction!
 - Attrition outpaces hiring; trend will not reverse!

- Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide staffing plan based only on current staff; want a staffing plan that does not include staffing shortages at all.
 - More policing does not necessarily mean better services!
 - When spikes in crime within a district is posted, how long does the data stay posted?
 - Believes if vacant properties were cleared up it would help fight crime!
 - Need to rethink how we are doing things!
- Topics of Concern:
 - Your strategies
 - Partnership on federal and state levels
 - Clutters of violence – occurring around the same time
 - Follow-up
 - Asking for help from federal and state partners
 - Amounts of crime and death – is frustrated; want results
 - Adequate documentation
 - Only 10 officers in the Eastern district
 - Open Air Drug Market
 - Police Engagement
 - Need plans and results
 - Not being notified by Department in a timely manner when crimes happen in his/her district
 - Gang violence
 - Getting officers out of the cars
 - Concern: Officers sitting in vehicle watching TV!
 - Parking enforcement problems/concern – want overnight parking enforcement – is this doable?
 - Parking trailers on city streets is illegal – is concerned about officers' response to same
 - Community engagement – a sense of urgency!
 - Immediate results
 - Need real outcome-based measures
 - Drug trade
 - Constituent frustration(s)
 - Mental Health Crisis
 - Need to get other professionals to do the work associated with mental health; should not be the officers' responsibility.
 - Quality of Life Issues
 - Increased complaints in the Public Integrity Unit
- Requested by Member Stokes: For the past five (5) years, provide data on the successes pertaining to ROCA
- Consent Decree
 - Can you talk about this? How is it going?
 - When was the first benchmark due?
 - Do you have a priority list?
 - Do you believe you are successful?

- How are you communicating the consent decree guidelines to communities?
- Requested by Member Cohen: Provide what the Consent Decree reforms is; what it does; to include where we are with compliance.
- Incentives
 - What incentives are in place for Senior Officers?
 - Tuition Reimbursement Plan within Department
 - Talk about this plan and who is eligible
 - Is this funding exhausted yet?
 - Do you ever use all funding available in budget for same? Answer: No
 - Requested by Chairman Costello: For the past five (5) years provide data pertaining to the Tuition Reimbursement Plan
- Recruitment and Retention
 - Are you conducting exit interviews?
 - What percentage of employees participate?
 - Requested by Chairman Costello: For the past three (3) years provide year to date data for conducting exit interviews
 - Sworn-In Officers
 - How many did you pick up?
 - How many did you lose?
 - What is the net loss for officers for this calendar year?
 - Comment: Hope the department is doing everything possible to prevent the loss of officers... is getting to a dangerous level/place!
 - The percentage of sworn officers hired that are city residents is still low!
 - What are your strategies for getting the numbers up?
 - Requested by Member Ramos: Provide the percentage for the number of city resident sworn in officers hired last year

3. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see "red and yellow" highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: July 11 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 – Day Six – BUDGET HEARINGS	Bill #: 22-0235
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Josh	Wilson	MORP					
Chris	Ryer	Planning					
Stephanie	Smith	"					
Nichole	Stewart	"					
Cheryl	Casciani	"					
Ava	Richardson	"					
Eric	Tiso	"					

*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



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 – Day Six – BUDGET HEARINGS	Bill #: 22-0235
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Taylor	LaFare	"					
Brune	Atti	"					
Patt	Morfe	Pmorfe@oedworks.com MOED					
Craig	Lewis	MOED / clewis@oedworks.com					
MACK	GARVIN	MOED mgarvin@oedworks.com					
DAVID	HAGANS	MOED dhagans@oedworks.com					
Elizabeth	Tatum	MORP					

*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



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 – Day Six – BUDGET HEARINGS	Bill #: 22-0235
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHRISTOPHER	LYONS	2000 E. Holliday					✓
Frank	Jorka	200 N. Holliday Street					✓
Annie	Fullas	200 N. Holliday St					✓
BECKE	ATTMA	200 N. Holliday St					✓
Julia	Khaloz	" "					✓
Marcus	Alkarsjok	" "					✓
Ben	Brosch	" "					✓

*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
Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Ways and Means

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

9:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

22-0235: Budget Hearings: Day 6: Agency Group 5
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Robert Stokes Sr.

Excused 2 - Kristerfer Burnett, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2023 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess.

ADJOURNMENT