

**NICK J. MOSBY**  
*Council President*



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## **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

January 13, 2022

The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, Mayor  
City of Baltimore  
Room 250, City Hall  
100 Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202 via email: [Mayor@BaltimoreCity.gov](mailto:Mayor@BaltimoreCity.gov)

Re: City Council Bill 21-0121 - American Rescue Plan Funds – Performance Oversight

Dear Honorable Mayor Scott:

On Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, you allowed City Council Bill 21-0121 bill to go into law without your signature. CB 21-0121 creates a formal partnership between the City Council and Administration, more specifically the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, to ensure that transparency is given to the citizens of Baltimore as it relates to the spending of \$641 million to aid in the City's pandemic recovery efforts.

You have previously stated, “transparency and accountability are core tenets of the Scott administration, and central to the mission of the Office of Recovery Programs established by the Mayor”. CB 21-0121 allows the Mayor's Office of Recovery Program to achieve greater transparency and accountability by guaranteeing that both the public and City Council are fully aware of the City's ARPA spending.

COVID-19 still poses a serious threat to the lives of Baltimore City residents. The \$641 million that the City received must be spent prudently and deliberately to ensure that the City is addressing the continuously devastating impacts that COVID-19 is having on our communities.

Investments must be made to guarantee that we are providing our healthcare professionals, teachers, emergency workers, and other essential workers with the resources necessary for them to perform their jobs in a healthy environment. We must commit to providing the residents of Baltimore with a timely delivery of City services to help them maintain a safe healthy home.

We also must make sure that City residents have access to secure, safe, stable, and affordable housing. Last week, the U.S. Department of Treasury released their Final Rule for ARPA spending clarifying how recipients of ARPA funding can use funding to support “housing stability services”<sup>1</sup> such as “rent, rental arrears, utility costs or arrears...mortgage payment assistance, financial assistance to allow a homeowner to reinstate a mortgage”, and legal aid to help individuals maintain housing.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule, *U.S. Department of Treasury*, pg. 82-3,  
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

CB 21-0121 will allow for more consistent dialogue between the Baltimore City Council and the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs.

As you mentioned in your message regarding CB 21-0121, the quarterly oversight hearings established through 21-0062R - American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings, was a first step in ensuring that the public and Council receives updates on the status of ARPA funds.

CB 21-0121 goes further in making sure that the Council and the public are provided with information on how ARPA expenditures are improving City services and addressing the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. Consistent communication through monthly financial disclosures, status of key performance indicators, quarterly briefings, equity assessments and annual reports as required in CB 21-0121 will enable the Council to appropriately monitor the disbursement and management of the ARPA funds.

The Council strives to work in partnership with you in addressing the myriad of issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that the City utilizes this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to equitably invest in our communities and address historic inequities.

We look forward to working with you, Mayor Scott and your administration to make sure that we meet the moment this historic time calls for.

In Partnership,



Nick J. Mosby  
City Council President

Cc: Sharon Green-Middleton, Council Vice President, chair of Economic Development committee  
Danielle McCray, chair of Health, Environment, Technology committee  
Mark Conway, chair of Public Safety and Government Operations committee  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, chair of Rules and Legislative Oversight committee  
Eric Costello, chair of Ways and Means committee  
Robert Stokes, chair of Education, Workforce, and Youth committee  
Zeke Cohen, District 1  
Ryan Dorsey, District 3  
James Torrence, District 7  
Kristerfer Burnett, District 8  
John T. Bullock, District 9  
Phylicia Porter, District 10  
Antonio Glover, District 13  
Odette Ramos, District 14