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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**RECONVENING HEARING**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**25-0015R – Informational Hearing – Well-being of the  
Transgender Community in Baltimore**

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**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR  
ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES  
NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR  
100 N. HOLIDAY STREET  
BALTIMORE MD, 21202

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## **BILL SYNOPSIS**

**Committee: Public Health and Environment**

**Council Resolution: 25-0015R**

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**Informational Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore**  
**RECONVENING HEARING**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmembers Porter, et al

**Introduced:** March 24, 2025

**Purpose:**

**FOR the purpose** of inviting representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to, and the general well-being of, the transgender community in Baltimore.

Effective: Upon enactment.

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## Analysis

### Background

The committee held its first hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Following are notes taken during the hearing:

### Major Speakers

- Alexis Blackmon, Office of LGBTQ Affairs
- Zachary Wellman, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Major Jenkins, Baltimore City Police Department
- Melissa Broome, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Keisha Howard, Mental Health Coordinator

### Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks.
2. The agency representatives from both the Office of LGBTQ Affairs and the Police Department gave PowerPoint Presentations. **Copies are on file.**
3. Chairwoman Porter went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
4. Approximately four (4) attendees gave public testimony. Some highlighted comments and/or topics of discussion were:
  - Maryland is a safe haven for our community
  - Supports the Resolution
  - Our community needs more help and support
  - We are a community and need your support and help now!
  - Talked about some past experiences as a member of the LGBTQ community
  - Proper identification is needed for members of the community
  - Appreciates the intent of the Resolution, however, still have concerns such as:
    - More accurate disparity reports are needed
    - Now is the time to mobilize and take action!
    - Need dedicated funding
      - Transparency, allocation and accountability are needed
    - Need effective outcomes
    - Community is resilient
    - More community input and engagement are needed
5. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - **Question(s)**
    - When is the next LGBTQ meeting? Answer: **Second Tuesday each month.**  
– **Also see committee request below.**
    - Do we know what the impact of federal cuts are or will be? Any sense of same?
    - How many of our city partners go through actual training?
  - **Comments:**

- To the community: “We (Council) will protect you!
- The Council is committed to all communities in the city!
- Baltimore is a welcoming City to all people and is proud of same!
- Baltimore protects its people! And is upholding our commitment to equity.
- We want to make sure we are doing the things we are saying we are doing!
- Several committee/council members thanked the attendees and agency representatives for attending the hearing.

6. Hearing recessed.

## Further Study Requests:

### I. Committee Requests:

#### a. By Chairwoman Porter:

- Provide an update on the Disparity Report and on the procurement identifier opportunities (Citi buy)
- While examining Citi buy provide an identifier/clarity for trans, gays, lesbians, etc.)

#### b. By Chairwoman Porter:

- Please extend an invitation to the Council to attend future LGBTQT meetings.

#### c. By Chairwoman Porter: to Health Department

- Gender Affirming Care: What policies and procedures are in place for any biases/etc.?
- For the past fiscal year, provide the number and/or list of training provided; to include how many of city partners go through training as well

#### d. By Committee member Mark Conway:

- Federal funding:
  - Provide a list of cuts from the federal government, to include grants (if available) and what the funding was for.

7. On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the committee will reconvene the hearing.

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## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Notes taken during June 11, 2025, committee hearing.

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*Marguerite Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin

Analysis Date: December 1, 2025

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