

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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HEARING NOTES

Bill: 20-0527

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

Committee: Budget and Appropriations
Chaired By: Councilmember Eric T. Costello

Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC)

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:10 AM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

VISIT Baltimore/Convention Center

Time (Beginning): 11:15 AM
Time (Ending): 11:55 AM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 55

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

Time (Beginning): 12:35 PM
Time (Ending): 1:35 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Mayor's Office of Sustainable Solutions

Time (Beginning): 1:40 PM
Time (Ending): 2:00 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA)

Time (Beginning): 2:30 PM
Time (Ending): 2:40 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Note: Recessed for Committee Hearing – Housing and Urban Affairs, and Dinner

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Time (Beginning): 5:35 PM
Time (Ending): 7:50 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 70

Committee Members in Attendance:

NOTE: All committee members attended at least one or more hearings throughout the day

Eric Costello Bill Henry
Leon Pinkett Sharon Sneed
Danielle McCray Sharon Middleton
Isaac "Yitzzy" 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 at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Colin Tarbert, Baltimore Development Corporation
 - Al Hutchinson, VISIT Baltimore, Finance Department
 - Peggy Diadakis, Convention Center
 - Tisha Edwards, Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services
 - Dan Hymowitz, Mayor’s Office of Sustainable Solutions
 - Derek Baumgardner, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
 - Matthew Garbark, Department of Public Works
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Major Issues Discussed

1. Several agency heads and their staff came before the committee/council member for day two (2) of the budget hearings.
2. PowerPoint presentations were given by all agencies. **Copies of all presentations are in Legistar and/or on file.**
3. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Baltimore Development Corporation**
 - New Duties -
 - How will the new duties affect the workload of your staff?
 - Equity
 - Which of your performance measures are connected to efforts for equitable access to opportunities and clearly applies a racial equity analysis?
 - Where are your performance matrixes located and can they be shared?
 - Pandemic/Small Businesses
 - Have any conversations begun on how better you can help support small businesses?
 - Helping our small businesses must be a greater priority
 - What should we be telling small businesses as far as a timeline is concern for them holding on; trying to survive? They feel they are losing customers to businesses outside the city. Us letting them know there is some relief in sight.
 - Request by Councilmember Schleifer: Provide a list of what businesses were awarded grants and/or contracts
 - Job Growth
 - Can you talk about your efforts to help small businesses grow in the city as well as from a real estate development viewpoint
 - “Made in Baltimore” Website
 - Hope to see renewed investments in the Pennsylvania Avenue market
 - Talk about your efforts toward food accessibility; that is: fresh, affordable and healthy food
 - Service 810 – Economic Development and Jobs
 - What is the basis for your performance measures?
 - What level of public investment do you intend on making this year?
 - **VISIT Baltimore/Convention Center**
 - Per Mr. Hutchinson, there were layoffs due to the pandemic and that they will be focusing on local opportunities. “I think it is going to be a slow comeback, he said. The pandemic has had a tremendous impact on tourisms and now to include the unrest on top of it.”
 - Question: Have you prepared any data on the projected number of visitors in the future?
 - Comment: MaCo is working with VISIT Baltimore to reschedule their event for some time during the month of November
 - Significant Budget Cuts
 - We know you are receiving significant cuts! Where will be the most significant impact? **Answer: Layoffs, staffing issues, and limited revenue collection; it will impact businesses three to four years down the road.**

- Are you talking to your counterparts in other cities to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their budgets?
 - Sporting Events (CIAA)
 - Have you had any discussions surrounding sporting events moving forward?
 - Ms. Diadakis talked about the effects of the pandemic on the Convention Center stating the Center has been shut down since March and have not held any events there.
 - Question: What is your projection for 1 ½ years out for the Convention Center?
 - How many hotels are open?
 - Comment: We must find more money for VISIT Baltimore and the Convention Center
- **Mayor's Office of Homeless Services**
 - KIPP – Temporary Shelter
 - Glad help is available.
 - Homelessness may be worse after the pandemic and will affect all districts.
 - We must work with neighbors to keep them calm; no one seems to want a shelter in their community
 - Is Baltimore committed to ending homelessness? \$25,000 per person budgeted seems like we are spending but not curing the problem! There are many challenges with addressing problems faced by the homeless population
 - Should we give more money to groups doing the best work? Tracking quality of work provided!
 - We have defunded and taken over some shelters because of underperformance; it requires data that shows effectiveness
 - FEMA Reimbursement
 - How much does FEMA reimburse?
 - The rules are still being drafted; have received \$6 million, (much of which will be granted out).
 - FEMA is supposed to cover 75% is this correct? Yes, currently but some are pushing for 100% and there are still uncertainties
 - Is 2,500 number for homeless people low? (youth are undercounted)
- **Mayor's Office of Sustainable Solutions**
 - Dan Hymowitz talked about:
 - Clean Stat – multi-agency meetings to make Baltimore cleaner
 - Before COVID, the city was making a lot of progress on the backlog for cleaning requests
 - Question: When can we see racial equity in your budget?
 - Equity is part of all Stats that offices prepares; each is different
 - Does your office factor in years of inequitable services to correct the past?
- **Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals**
 - Mr. Baumgardner gave a brief presentation. No questions and/or concerns were expressed by committee/councilmembers.
- **Department of Public Works**
 - New COVID Cases – Eastside Employees

- Per Mr. Garbark, starting tomorrow all operations on the eastside of the city will be closed for three (3) weeks and employees will be isolated for two (2) weeks.
 - Question: How many employees at the Bowley Lane's site have tested positive for COVID? And, how have this affected operations?
 - Are the employees at Bowley Lane receiving hazardous pay?
- Question:
 - How is your operating budget incorporating equity into it?
- Contract Pertaining to Grass Mowing
 - Was your Department caught up in this issue?
- Street Sweeping
 - What is the status of the GPS street sweeping?
 - Some level of accountability is needed for the street sweeping operation
 - Request by Costello: Provide an update on the number of vehicles available for street sweeping
- Sewage Back-Up
 - What type of progress has been made on these problems?
- Equity Program
 - How does this program contact MBE/WBE about contracts to ensure their participation?
- Less Waste Master Plan
 - Have you read the report?
 - In your budget are we looking at any funding for this plan?
- Illegal Dumping
 - What is the status of and operation for same?
 - Comments:
 - Need to connect illegal dumping with our housing inspectors
 - Need more cameras in those areas
 - Need Housing Inspectors to partner with you
- The Small Haulers' Pilot Program ended yesterday, are there any preliminary outcomes associated with that program?
- Capital Projects
 - Is there anything in the works for capital projects? Please elaborate!
 - Will local contractors be a part of those projects?
- Water Billing System
 - The system has improved however the more challenging bills are hard to get resolved. How does DPW plan to resolve these type bills?
 - Residents, facilities, etc. that did not receive water bills
 - What is the update for this issue?
 - Is there an update on the county/city water billing agreement? (This agreement really needs to be reviewed)
- Can you talk about the GPS program?
- Staff/Employees Returning to Work
 - The amount of work to be done when staff return; what will be some of the challenges when they return? **Answer: It will be an enormous task(s).**
- Graffiti Removal
 - How will the department address this in the future?

- Will service requests for this remain the same?
 - How much is cutting graffiti cleaning in this budget saving?
 - Removal of Dead Animals
 - How do we get to the place where city government can collect birds, rats, small animals, and etc.?
 - What is the status of rat rub-out services?
 - Request by Chairman Costello: Can you coordinate with the Health Department on this issue?
 - Comments Regarding:
 - Fair Development Round Table
 - Composting for profit
 - Recycling containers
 - Compost bins
 - Zero Waste
 - Helping local small businesses
 - The city used to have a moratorium for parking tickets; one should be created for water billing too.
 - Forestry Land
 - The forestry surrounding our reservoirs are in poor condition – this is a threat and is of concern
 - The deer population continues to grow!
 - What will it cost in water billing when we are constantly losing our forestry and eventually will have to paid more for water.
 - Water Accountability and Equity Act
 - There is a study of infrastructure fees that is based on property size; where is DPW at with this study?
 - Property Maintenance
 - Property assigned to the Comptroller’s Office; which agencies are responsible for maintaining city properties?
 - Property not being maintained – is of concern and we need to have a conversation about this matter with multiple agencies such as Comptroller’s Office, DOT, DPW and etc.
4. The hearing was called to recess until June 10, 2020

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 24, 2020

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Budget and Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

9:00 AM Virtual Webex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Event
Number: 129 139 5700, Password: Public,
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e380c61541a0d0699e2d33722eae0e625)
MTID=e380c61541a0d0699e2d33722eae0e625

20-0527

FY2021 Budget Hearings
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Member Eric T. Costello, Member Leon F. Pinkett III, Member Bill Henry, Member
Danielle McCray, Member Sharon Green Middleton, Member Isaac "Yitzy"
Schleifer, and Member Shannon Sneed

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

20-0527

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

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 2021 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess.

ADJOURNMENT

AGENCIES BUDGET HEARING - DAY TWO (2)

