

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

City Council Resolution: 21-0002R

Investigative Hearing - Inland Flood Mitigation

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: February 24, 2021

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM

Time (Ending): 11:50 AM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 55 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter James Torrence Isaac Schleifer

- Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [ ] YES [ ] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [ ] YES [ ] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Motioned by: Porter
Seconded by: Dorsey
Final Vote: Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Lisa McNeilly, Office of Sustainability
Kim Grove, Department of Public Works
Jay Wallace, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management
Liam Davis, Department of Transportation

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and explained the Committee's plan for the proceedings.
2. Councilwoman Ramos discussed the purpose of the resolution and the need to address inland flooding in Baltimore City neighborhoods.
3. Representatives from the Office of Sustainability, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Works, and Department of Transportation presented on inland flooding issues and their agencies' efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to inland flooding (presentations in file).
4. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
  - a. How does the City proactively identify areas with chronic flooding? The City can use data from 311 and 911 calls, FEMA claims, and the new tool developed to track nuisance flooding.
  - b. How many residents receive alerts through the Bmore Alert system? The Office of Emergency Management provided the following registration numbers: Business – 589, Residential – 4555, Phones – 5626, Texts – 4767, Landlines - 160K (estimated), and Email – 2372.
  - c. Has the City evaluated roadway flooding around Gwynns Run? The City is working on models to look at stormwater drainage in the Gwynns Falls watershed and it should be complete within a year.
  - d. Do flood insurance discounts for City residents only apply in floodplains? The discounts are available in just the one and two percent flood areas.
  - e. Are the agencies looking at potential building foundation problems caused by flooding? The Department of Housing and Community Development would need look at the issue.
  - f. Is the City working with neighboring jurisdictions on cross-boundary issues? The City is working with neighboring counties, as well as state and federal agencies to address stormwater issues in a coordinated way.
  - g. What is the status of the Frederick Manor Apartments acquisition, are there efforts to get state financial assistance for the acquisition and demolition, and are the basement units permitted for use currently? The purchase estimate for the property is \$3 million with an additional \$2 million estimated for demolition and restoration. The City is looking for opportunities for state and other funding for the project. The basement apartments do not currently have use permits.
5. Advocates testified regarding examples and causes of inland flooding, sewage contamination in flood waters, and the need to address inland flooding with green infrastructure. Residents testified about how they have been impacted by flooding and the need for the City to address the issue.
6. The Committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

Yes     No

**If yes, describe.**

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**Committee Vote:**

D. McCray: ..... Yea  
J. Bullock: ..... Yea  
M. Conway: ..... Absent  
R. Dorsey: ..... Yea  
P. Porter: ..... Yea  
J. Torrence: ..... Yea  
I. Schleifer: ..... Absent

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Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: February 28, 2021

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File