



HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 24-0219R

[BILL NAME]

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology
Chaired by: Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: September 25, 2024
Time (Beginning): 10:15 AM
Time (Ending): 10:06 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 16
Committee Members in Attendance:
Danielle McCray Mark Conway
Phylicia Porter James Torrence

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
Hearing televised 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.)

- Robert Stratford: DPW Representative
- Jason Wright: DHCD Representative
- Angela Cruz Williams: Community Association Member

Major Issues Discussed

1. Rat Infestation: The hearing centered around citywide rat abatement efforts, with an emphasis on how Baltimore has become one of the top 10 cities in the U.S. for rat infestations. The issue was framed as a significant public health threat impacting residents' living conditions, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods.
 2. Sanitation and Trash Disposal: The discussion highlighted the critical role of proper sanitation and trash disposal in controlling the rat population. Improper waste management, both by residents and businesses, was identified as a major contributor to rat infestations.
 3. Inter-agency Collaboration: The need for collaboration between different city agencies (Health Department, DPW, and DHCD) was emphasized, with a focus on how coordinated efforts could improve rat abatement strategies. CleanStat meetings were mentioned as an avenue for this collaboration.
 4. Public Awareness and Engagement: There was a significant call for increased community engagement and public awareness campaigns to educate residents about proper waste disposal and sanitation practices.
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Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. Data Requests: Councilwoman McCray requested an overlay map showing the top 10 areas with dirty alley requests and rat-related complaints over the last 60 days.
 2. Rat Birth Control Inquiry: Councilwoman Porter inquired about the use of contrapest (rat birth control) and requested an update within a week regarding the city's progress in exploring this solution.
 3. Budget Details: Both Councilwomen McCray and Porter requested information on the budgets allocated for rat abatement, community engagement, and public awareness campaigns.
 4. Public Awareness Campaign: There was a strong request for a comprehensive public awareness campaign on trash disposal and sanitation practices, with a focus on utilizing various media platforms to reach residents.
 5. Inquiry on Citations to Businesses: Councilwoman Porter raised a question about how many citations have been issued to local businesses for sanitation and cleanliness violations, particularly in relation to rat infestations.
 6. Vacant Building Data: Councilman James Torrence requested a follow-up to improve coordination on addressing rat infestations in vacant properties and proposed changes to the consent process for rat abatement on private properties.
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Deontie Hayes

Committee Staff: Deontre L. Hayes
Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

Date: September 25, 2024



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Resolution – Informational Hearing - Citywide Rat Abatement Efforts	24-0219R
Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology	Chair: Danielle McCray
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Time: 10:01 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u>							
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
Angela	Williams	2516 Washington Blvd Morrold Park ✓	↓				

*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

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Health, Environment, and Technology

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

10:01 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2346 253 0426, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=m04a899704ee98587e6a28592fad8131e](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m04a899704ee98587e6a28592fad8131e)

24-0219R

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Phylicia Porter, and James Torrence

Absent 3 - John T. Bullock, Ryan Dorsey, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

[24-0219R](#)

Informational Hearing - Citywide Rat Abatement Efforts

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to discuss citywide rat abatement efforts, including reducing the rodent population, collaboration of City agencies on coordinated abatement measures, and the status of the Health Department's Bureau of Vector Control.

Sponsors: Phylicia Porter

Recessed

ADJOURNMENT