

FIFTH DAY

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FIRST COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2020-2024

JOURNAL  
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

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February 22, 2021

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Reverend Maxine Reed Vance of Grace Baptist Church, led the Council in Prayer.

The President and members of the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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**SHOWCASE BALTIMORE**

Sid Wilson of the South Baltimore Learning Center delivered a presentation.

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The City Council of Baltimore met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Nicholas J. Mosby, President, and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos

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**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The Journal of February 8, 2021 was read and approved.

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**INTRODUCTION AND READ FIRST TIME**

The President laid before the City Council the following bills and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council for first reading:

**Bill No. 21-0040** - By the Council President (The Administration)

An Ordinance modifying the City laws governing floodplain management to meet or exceed requirements for eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program and other requirements of Federal and State law; incorporating certain flood-resistant design and construction standards

adopted by the American Society of Civil Engineers; defining and redefining certain terms; repealing redundant, obsolete, or otherwise superfluous provisions; correcting and conforming certain obsolete nomenclature; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the public health, safety, and welfare through floodplain management.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Sustainability Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Finance, and the Economic and Community Development Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0041** - By the Council President (Office of the Comptroller)

An Ordinance repealing City Code, Article 5, Subtitle 1 {"City Comptroller"}; designating the Comptroller or the Comptroller's designee to be the clerk of the Board of Estimates; requiring the Clerk of the Board of Estimates coordinate reports required to be filed with the Board of Estimates; requiring the Comptroller to retain the reports for an appropriate period of time; and establishing certain contract and procurement thresholds pursuant to City Charter Article VI, Section 11(b).

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Comptroller, Department of Finance, Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office, and the Ways and Means Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0042** - By the Council President (Office of the Comptroller)

An Ordinance modernizing the methods by which the Comptroller shall make certain information regarding the City's real estate records available to the public; making certain stylistic changes; and conforming and correcting related provisions.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Comptroller, Department of Finance, Baltimore City Information Technology, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Real Estate, Baltimore City Archives, and the Ways and Means Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0043** - By the Council President (Office of the Comptroller)

An Ordinance establishing that certain municipal officers shall be an ex-officio members of the City's Committee on Insurance and Risk Management; clarifying the number and appointment of certain other Committee members; requiring that the Department of Finance provide administrative and technical support to the Committee; requiring that the Committee meet at least biannually to carry out its functions; and conforming and clarifying related provisions.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Comptroller, Department of Finance, City Administrator, Office of Risk Management, and the Ways and Means Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0044** - By the Council President (Office of the Comptroller)

An Ordinance conforming the composition of the Board of Trustees for the Retirement Savings Plan and Fire and Police Employees' Retirement Board of Trustees to allow a certain designee of the Comptroller to act in the Comptroller's place; conforming and correcting related provisions; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the City Administrator, City Solicitor, Retirement Savings Plan, Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System, Comptroller, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Fire Department, Department of Human Resources, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Finance, Labor Commissioner, and the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0045** - By Councilmember Ramos

An Ordinance changing the zoning for the property at Block 4053, Lot 013, Ward 09, and Section 020, as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the O-S Zoning District to the R-7 Zoning District; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Economic and Community Development Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0046** - By Councilmember Dorsey

An Ordinance changing the name of Eastwood Field, located on the northeast side of Herring Run within Herring Run Park, adjacent to 3602 Eastwood Drive, to Mayes Meadow.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Real Estate, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Finance, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Economic and Community Development Committee.

The President laid before the City Council the following Council Resolutions for first reading:

**Bill No. 21-0021R** - By Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Cohen, McCray, Porter, Bullock, Middleton, Stokes, Glover, Ramos, Torrence

A Resolution inviting the Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Sheriff of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, the Police Chief of the Baltimore City School Police, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, and the head of the Baltimore City Public School System's Career and Technology Education program to appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss: the Baltimore City Fire and Police Department's explorer programs; youth works programs; cadet programs; college internship programs; the successes and opportunities with local recruiting and hiring initiatives; and establishing the best method to create a pipeline of homegrown talent into Baltimore City public safety agencies.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Police Commissioner, Fire Chief, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Department of Human Resources, Department of Finance, and the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0022R** - By Councilmembers Dorsey, Burnett, Cohen, Middleton

A Resolution calling on the Administration, if the City receives additional COVID-19 relief funds from the United States Congress, to invest at least \$1 million of those funds to establish an emergency fund to assist Baltimore City artists.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, Department of Finance, Baltimore Development Corporation, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and the Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0023R** - By Councilmembers Dorsey, Burnett, Cohen, Bullock, Middleton

A Resolution inviting representatives from the Public Arts Commission, the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Parking Authority, the Planning Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Office, the Department of Finance, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to discuss the continued administration of the "1% for Art" program.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Baltimore Development Corporation, Parking Authority, Planning Commission, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Transportation, Mayor's Office, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Department of Finance, and the Ways and Means Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0024R** - By Councilmember Ramos, McCray, Porter, Bullock, Middleton

A Resolution inviting the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, the Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, the Law Department, the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and other relevant parties to provide information and complete details and timeline, and amounts of liens owed, disaggregated where appropriate by demographics, ages, owner-occupied versus non-owner-occupied, and number of residents who have owned their property for more than 25 years in tax sale this year; in addition, discussing the City's powers related to the state, programs already in place to assist homeowners in tax sale, possible reforms, an update on implementation of the *In Rem* process for vacant and abandoned properties, and any other relevant information of interest to the Baltimore City Council.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the City Solicitor, Department of Housing and Community Development, Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, Department of Finance, and the Ways and Means Committee.

**Bill No. 21-0025R** - By Councilmembers Stokes, Middleton, Glover, Ramos, Burnett, Torrence, Cohen, Dorsey

Introduced February 22, 2021  
(Read and adopted)

#### **A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

#### **COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day**

FOR the purpose of declaring the first Monday in March COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.

#### **Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has spread across the world, creating a global pandemic that is having catastrophic effects on human life, our community, and our economy;

**WHEREAS**, Local and state governments, health departments, and public servants have taken bold actions to protect residents, support struggling local economies, and find innovative ways to provide services;

**WHEREAS**, In response to rapid spread of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders, essential workers have stepped up to provide critical services to help protect our communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and safety;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and communities of color, exacerbating inequities already prevalent in our systems that we must address as a nation;

**WHEREAS**, Public health guidance and policies targeted at prevention, such as social distancing, wearing masks in public, and staying home help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, prevent illness, and lessen the burden on individuals and society;

**WHEREAS**, The symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors is largely unknown, as many survivors suffer with lingering side-effects of the disease long after they no longer test positive;

**WHEREAS**, More than 2.3 million people worldwide, 463,000 people in the United States, and 700 people in Baltimore City have lost their lives due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Each life lost to COVID-19 mattered and leaves a hole in the hearts of loved ones, family members, and the surrounding community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City Council declares the first Monday in March COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Stokes made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

There being no objection, the President declared that the Rules were suspended.

Then Councilmember Stokes made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

### CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, AND 62 ADOPTED UNDER RULE 3-9.

The resolutions were read.

The roll was called on the adoption of the resolutions, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the resolutions adopted under Rule 3-9.

**Ceremonial Resolutions will be found at the end of the Journal.**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **BILL NO. 21-0008 REPORTED FAVORABLY, WITH AMENDMENTS, AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Middleton, for the Economic and Community Development Committee, reported Bill No. 21-0008 favorably, with amendments.

An Ordinance naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

Committee Amendments to City Council Bill No. 21-0008

#### **Amendment No. 1**

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**2027 West Rogers Avenue**” and substitute “**2021 West Rogers Avenue**”; and, on that same page, in lines 4 and 5 and in line 18, in each instance, strike “2027 West Rogers Avenue” and substitute “**2021 West Rogers Avenue**”.

#### **Amendment No. 2**

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**Rikki**” and substitute “**Rochelle “Rikki”**”; and, on that same page, in line 5 and in line 19, in each instance, strike “Rikki” and substitute “**Rochelle “Rikki”**”.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report, as amended, adopted.

The bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 21-0003 REPORTED FAVORABLY  
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Conway, for the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee, reported Bill No. 21-0003 favorably.

An Ordinance establishing the Baltimore City Workgroup on Nuisance Parking and Auto Businesses; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to study certain matters related to the illegal storage of motor vehicles in public rights-of-way by motor vehicle repair establishments and motor vehicle dealerships and make certain recommendations; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on or before a certain date; providing for a special effective date; providing for the termination of this Ordinance; and generally relating to the illegal practice of using the public right-of-way as surplus private motor vehicle storage.

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 1, in line 4, strike “, chair,”; and, on page 2, in line 23, after the semi-colon, insert “and”; and, on that same page, in line 24, strike “; and” and substitute with a period; and, on that same page, strike lines 25 through 28 in their entirety; and, on that same page, in lines 29 and 30, strike “(d)” and “(e)”, respectively, and substitute “(c)” and “(d)”, respectively; and, on page 3, in lines 28, 31, and 34, strike “(f)”, “(g)”, and “(h)”, respectively, and substitute “(e)”, “(f)”, and “(g)”, respectively.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Then Councilmember Dorsey offered the following amendment to the bill:

Amendment to City Council Bill No. 21-0003

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 3, in line 30, strike “(h)” and substitute “(g)”; and, on that same page, in line 34, strike “(g)” and substitute “(f)”.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report, as amended, adopted.

The bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 21-0014 REPORTED FAVORABLY  
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Conway, for the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee, reported Bill No. 21-0014 favorably.

An Ordinance requiring the Fire Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department to report annually certain information to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore; requiring the report to be made available on the Department's website; and providing for a special effective date.

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 3, in line 8, line 10, lines 12 and 13, and lines 21 and 22, in each instance, strike "HIRING", and substitute "PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING"; and, on that same page, in line 15, strike "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE" and substitute "THE FIRE CHIEF OR THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE"; and, on that same page, in line 16, strike "FIRE DEPARTMENT"; and, on that same page, in line 17, strike "APPLICATION" and substitute "PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING".

**Amendment No. 2**

On page 3, in line 9, strike "OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"; and, on that same page, in line 12, strike "OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL"; and, on that same page, in line 13, strike "SERVICES"; and, on that same page, in line 18, strike "OR"; and, on that same page, in line 19, strike "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES".

**Amendment No. 3**

On page 3, in line 24, insert:

(3) EACH YEAR, DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY, AN APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING DURING WHICH THE FIRE CHIEF OR THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE MUST PRESENT INFORMATION REGARDING:

(1) THE OVERALL PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING PROCESS FOR ENTRY-LEVEL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POSITIONS;

(II) THE RECRUITMENT STRATEGY FOR ENTRY-LEVEL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POSITIONS;

(III) THE RACE, GENDER, AND CITY RESIDENCY DATA OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES APPLICANTS; AND

(IV) ANY STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE EQUITY IN THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING PROCESS AND TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO ENTRY FOR ENTRY-LEVEL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POSITIONS.

**Amendment No. 4**

On page 3, in line 28, strike “on or before January 31, 2021” and substitute “within 90 calendar days after the effective date of this Ordinance”.

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report adopted.

The bill was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**THIRD READING**

The President laid before the City Council:

**BILL NO. 21-0017** - An Ordinance requiring that the Department of Human Resources, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City, and the Department of Finance submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating certain matters related to providing parking and commuter benefits to City employees; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared “Passed”.

**THIRD READING**

The President laid before the City Council:

**BILL NO. 21-0018** - An Ordinance requiring that Baltimore City Information and Technology, in consultation with certain other agencies, submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating methods and systems of dispatching towing vehicles within Baltimore City; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

**BILLS TO BE WITHDRAWN AT THE REQUEST OF THE SPONSOR**

**BILL NO. 21-0002** - An Ordinance authorizing that the real property taxes owed on certain properties may be paid through a monthly installment plan; establishing the maximum term for an installment payment plan; authorizing that certain payments may be subject to a service charge; authorizing that certain late payments shall be referred to the Tax Sale Ombudsman; requiring the Director of Finance to adopt regulations to implement this subtitle; defining certain terms; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to installment payments of real property taxes in Baltimore City.

Regarding withdrawal of the bill, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

With no objections, the bill was withdrawn.

**BILL NO. 21-0016** - An Ordinance authorizing that certain arrearages and liens may be paid through installment payment plan and agreement; establishing the effect of breaching an installment plan agreement; specifying the contents of the notice of an offer of an installment

payment plan; specifying certain terms of the installment payment agreement; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to installment payments of certain arrearages and liens in Baltimore City.

Regarding withdrawal of the bill, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

With no objections, the bill was withdrawn.

**BILL NO. 21-0034** - An Ordinance prohibiting the Mayor and City Council from conducting or otherwise scheduling a tax sale pursuant to Title 14, Subtitle 8, Part III {"Tax Sales"} of the State Tax-Property Article during the 2021 calendar year; and providing for a special effective date.

Regarding withdrawal of the bill, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

With no objections, the bill was withdrawn.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULES 10-2 AND 10-3  
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 21-0013R**

Councilmember Middleton made a motion, duly seconded, to suspend Rules 10-2 and 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 21-0013R.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember 21-0013R announced a hearing date for the bill.

**Journal of the City Council****MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULES 10-2 AND 10-3  
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 21-0014R**

Councilmember Middleton made a motion, duly seconded, to suspend Rules 10-2 and 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 21-0014R.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember 21-0014R announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULES 10-2 AND 10-3  
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 21-0015R**

Councilmember Middleton made a motion, duly seconded, to suspend Rules 10-2 and 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 21-0015R.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember 21-0015R announced a hearing date for the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember, duly seconded, the City Council adjourned to meet on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

**CR 57 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution congratulating Delegate Hattie Harrison on being the longest serving member of the House of Delegates (40 years) and the first African American woman to chair a major committee.**

**CR 58 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution on the death of William Andre Sheffield, November 3, 1960 – January 27, 2021.**

**CR 59 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution congratulating Garrett L. Knight on your 35 years of service to the City of Baltimore, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude, congratulations on your retirement.**

**CR 60 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution on the death of Apostle Thelma Johnson Ryals, March 11, 1934 – February 4, 2021.**

**CR 61 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution on the death of Jermaine Mike Porter, August 21, 1973 – February 8, 2021.**

**CR 62 President Mosby, All Members**

**A City Council Resolution congratulating Nicholas Calace on your twelve years of meritorious service to the Housing Authority Board of Baltimore City.**