



**HEARING NOTES**

**Resolution: 21-0071R**

**Investigative Hearing - Developing a Coordinated Response to Baltimore City's Overdose Crisis**

**Committee:** Health, Environment, and Technology

**Chaired by:** Danielle McCray

**Hearing Date:** November 17, 2021

**Time (Beginning):** 10:00 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:55 AM

**Location:** Webex Virtual Hearing

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 80 people

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Danielle McCray	John Bullock	Mark Conway	Ryan Dorsey
James Torrence	Phylicia Porter	Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer	

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

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Kelleigh Eastman, Health Department
- Brittney Spencer, Health Department
- Adrienne Breidenstine, Behavioral Health System Baltimore
- Michelle Wirzberger, Police Department
- Lt. Col. John Herzog, Police Department
- Nick Wilson, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Rajani Gudlavalleti, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition

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**Major Issues Discussed**

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order, introduced the committee members in attendance, and discussed the importance of addressing the overdose crisis.
2. Brittney Spencer presented on the Health Department’s overdose prevention program (presentation in file).
3. Adrienne Breidenstine presented on Behavioral Health System Baltimore’s services and role in addressing the overdose crisis (presentation in file).
4. Lt. Col. Herzog discussed the Police Department’s overdose response strategy, including directing victims to treatment and equipping officers with Naloxone and training.
5. James Matz summarized the Fire Department’s work with the Health Department and its overdose prevention and response work.
6. Representatives from other agencies summarized the agencies’ written reports.
7. Agency representatives responded to committee member questions.
8. Rajani Gudlavalleti from the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition presented on the Coalition’s work and the benefits of overdose prevention sites (presentation in file).
9. The committee heard public testimony.
10. Chairwoman McCray explained that the committee would reconvene in the future and recessed the hearing.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

**Yes**     **No**

**If yes, describe.**

The committee will hold additional meetings on this resolution in the future. The committee also requested the following additional information from the agencies:

1. The number of fentanyl test strips that the city receives from the state each year, and the percentage of the state’s total test strip distribution that Baltimore receives each year (Health Department).
2. The amount the city spends each year in response to the opioid epidemic, broken down by agency (Department of Finance).
3. The final Opioid Intervention Team Strategic Plan (Health Department).

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**Committee Vote:**

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

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Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: November 12, 2021

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File