

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

 ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

HEARING NOTES

Bill: 25-0062

Title: Building Code – Single Exit from Residential Occupancy

Committee: Land Use & Transportation

Chaired by: Ryan Dorsey

Hearing Date: 9/18/2025

Time (Beginning): 10:50 AM

Time (Ending): 12:05 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Attendance: Approximately 65

Committee Members in Attendance: Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylicia Porter, Paris Gray, John Bullock, Zac Blanchard

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:
Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Ryan Dorsey – Council Member & Chair of the Committee

Major Issues Discussed

- Vice Chair Middleton called the Hearing to Order, introducing the members and the bill
- The floor was open to a presentation from Councilmember Dorsey (slides in file)
- Questions for sponsor
 - What is the difference for evacuation in a single v double staircase

- With modern materials and systems, most fires don't actually spread more time for people to get out and limits the possibility of a conflict between people evacuating and BCFD responding
- What is a pressurized stairwell?
 - Technology is usually seen in high-rise buildings to keep them clear of smoke and usable in an evacuation. These would be incorporated in smaller units under the bill.
- How will this affect residents aging in place?
 - These buildings can still have elevators – not a requirement
 - Will be guided by ADA & Fair Housing – ground floor units will need to be adaptable and allow for people with disability to adapt for those with those needs
- Will this affect existing buildings being renovated?
 - No this already exist in the IEBC (International Existing Building Code)
- The floor was open to agency Reports
- Chair Dorsey reviews Amendments from BCFD
- Public Testimony
- Hearing recessed

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Chair: Yea
 Vice Chair: Yea
 Member: Yea
 Member: Yea
 Member: Yea

Tony Leva, Date: 9/19/2025

Cc: Bill File
 OCS Chrono File

