



HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO23-0039

Legislative Oversight – Brooklyn Mass Shooting

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Chaired by: Mark Conway

Hearing Date: September 27, 2023

Time (Beginning): 10:10 AM

Time (Ending): 12:30 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 56 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mark Conway Kristofer Burnett Phylicia Porter
Zeke Cohen Odette Ramos Eric Costello

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? [ ] YES [X] NO [ ] N/A
Motioned by:
Seconded by:
Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Richard Worley – BPD1 Acting Commissioner Stefanie Mavronis – MONSE2 Interim Director
Janet Abrams – HABC3 President % CEO Monica Watkins – HABC Executive VP
James Wallace – Acting Chief BCFD4 James Matz – Asst. Chief BCFD EMS5

1 BPD is the Baltimore City Police Department
2 MONSE is the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, Safety, and Engagement
3 HABC is the Housing Authority of Baltimore City
4 BCFD is the Baltimore City Fire Department
5 EMS is Emergency Medical Services

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order and introduced the committee members in attendance.
2. Chairman Conway made opening remarks.
3. The committee resumed questions for BPD from the previous hearing. Topics included:
  - a. Calls included descriptions of many individuals with knives and guns – police were told not to get “sucked in” Was this because officers did not take the threat seriously or because they were concerned about their safety?
    - i. BPD noted that officers should have responded, and that delay would only be ok if waiting for additional resources or units to help respond.
  - b. Why did the police who responded to calls for service earlier in the day to the Brooklyn area not realize that Brooklyn Day was happening?
    - i. Officers should have realized that the event was happening or that some large event was happening based on the number of cars, people, and other items related to the event that had been moved into the area.
  - c. Would dispatchers and staff in the call center – particularly police sergeant and supervisor - know what was happening based on calls to 911 and why was that not elevated up?
    - i. The rate of calls may have been such that could have not been aware of the incident until it was actively happening.
  - d. Is the equity heat map shown in a previous hearing (see after action slide deck) being used in other districts?
    - i. It is now and is being reviewed every 6-12 months.
  - e. Protocols for large events.
    - i. There are protocols for large events, but officers did not follow them in this case.
    - ii. Policy was previously unwritten, but an SOP has since been written.
  - f. HABC was not informed of the incident until 3 a.m. – what is the relationship between BPD and HABC
    - i. BPD did not inform until the scene was secure.
  - g. Training of Commanders and Majors.
    - i. Officers getting promotions will be moved to the patrol division to ensure that their experience includes working in that area before they reach a command level.
    - ii. Recently promoted commanders will also participate in shadowing another commander for at least four weeks before assuming a command.
4. HABC made a presentation of their After-Action Report.
5. MONSE made a presentation of their After-Action Report
6. BCFD made a presentation of their After-Action Report
7. Agencies responded to questions from Committee Members. Topics included:
  - a. How does HABC collaborate and build relationships with their communities?
    - i. HABC relies heavily on tenant associations.

- b. What does Brooklyn Day look like in 2024
  - c. Calls to HABC emergency hotline from Brooklyn Day.
    - i. Few if any calls about the shooting were received – the line is mostly used to report issues with homes or the campus (a broken bathroom or refrigerator for instance). HABC is working to inform residents that they can use the line to call for safety emergencies.
  - d. How many cameras are in Brooklyn?
    - i. 16 but these are controlled by City Watch and not HABC who does provide funding.
  - e. HABC Protocols for emergency situations.
    - i. HABC does have emergency protocols and activated them for Brooklyn Day but did not receive notification about the shooting until 3 a.m.
    - ii. With private armed security HABC has the ability to move them to different campuses in the event there is an emergency.
  - f. What will be the process to have Violence interrupters share information about potentially dangerous situations?
    - i. Mediations prior to the shooting did not indicate that there was a concern about the party becoming violent.
  - g. Did management in the Brooklyn Community know about Brooklyn Day?
    - i. No they were not aware it was happening.
  - h. Why did HABC not have an acting security official?
    - i. There was only one security official in the office who left prior to the shooting, there was no one in the agency who had the credentials to assume that position. HABC is now hiring two security officials.
8. Chairman Conway recessed the hearing.

### Further Study

**Was further study requested?**

**Yes**     **No**

**If yes, describe.**

1. Review and analysis of policies and systems to support programs and events at HABC campuses. HABC
2. Can a list of historical applicants and annual events be made using information from the permitting process? So that BPD and other partner agencies can have a list of frequent events and annual events. Asking if this is feasible only - not the report itself.
3. Timeline from DOT on the special permitting process updates to help interagency coordination.

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**Committee Vote:**

M. Conway: .....  
K. Burnett: .....  
Z. Cohen: .....  
E. Costello: .....  
A. Glover: .....  
P. Porter: .....  
O. Ramos: .....

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Tony Leva,  
Committee Staff

Date: May 25, 2023

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File