

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0121

American Rescue Plan Funds – Performance Oversight

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello
Hearing Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Time (Beginning): 10:15 AM
Time (Ending): 11:40 AM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Eric T. Costello
Robert Stokes, Sr.
Danielle McCray
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Kristerfer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton

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
Video 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? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Motioned by: Councilmember McCray
Seconded by: Councilmember Middleton
Final Vote: Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Elena DiPietro, Law Department
Robert (Bob) Cennamo, Finance Department
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
Nikki Thompson, President's Office
Aaron Degraffenreidt, President's Office

## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Costello went over the Ordinance with the agency representatives. Several representatives stated they did not have a formal written response unavailable due to the short notification of the hearing date and time but would by the end of the week.
2. The representative from the Mayor's Office and committee member Dorsey both submitted amendments. All amendments submitted failed due to the majority of nay votes and/or due to a lack of motion on an amendment(s).
3. The committee/councilmembers asked questions, made comments and/or stated concerns. Some highlights for same were:

- Questions

- To Law Department – Have you had a chance to look at the amendments?  
**Answer: No**
- To Law Department - Open Meetings Act Notice Requirement – Can you talk about the requirements
- I am a little confused about the Recovery Office; who are we requesting monthly reports from? Finance or the Recovery Office? **Answered by the Chairman: We don't have the authority to direct the Mayor's Office; therefore, we asked Finance.**
- How much is budgeted for the Office of Recovery Programs (ORP) this fiscal year? **Answer: \$27 million for fiscal 2022**
- How much of the \$27 million is coming from general funds? **Answer: \$10.9 million**
- Does ORP have the capacity to management \$50 million this year? **Answer The \$50 million is for a period of over three (3) years**
- During a press conference Director Carney stated that three (3) non-profits will oversee the funds:
  - Did these non-profits submit proposals? And if so, please provide copies of those proposals – **Requested by committee member Schleifer**
  - How much of the \$50 million is pledged to the non-profits?
- Creation of a new program - job readiness program
  - How can we keep this program around after these funds are exhausted? **Answer: There are currently no plans**
- Approximately \$130 million of the funds have been allocated during the past few days; which is over 20% of the funding -How long did the decision-making processes last and/or take place in order to allocate these funds?

- Comments

- I was taking aback by Finance's response regarding monthly reporting; the government already have problems with getting information to our constituents in a timely manner. This is a once in a lifetime experience for us to help and move the problems of our city forward. Quarterly reporting is just too long. We have a job to do! It's not just about reporting the dollars! **Answer to comments: A whole office (Mayor's Office of**

Recovery Program) was established to oversee these funds. Finance don't have staff for monthly reporting, but we can do quarterly reporting.

- Per Nikki Thompson, there will be a need for coordination amongst and/or between agencies in order to produce the monthly reports. She also stated that it is important to align reporting with the disbursement of funds; monthly reporting will be better. She also talked about the intent for using monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.
- Committee member Dorsey make some suggestions regarding amending the bill to change some of the key performance indicators and to address monthly versus quarterly reporting.

- Concerns/Statements

- Is unable to ask questions she had because some of the agency representatives are not in attendance.

4. Vote on proposed amendments; all failed. Vote on bill. Three committee members explained his/her vote on the bill. Hearing concluded.

### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

1. See yellow highlight above in the Major Issues Discussed section.

### Committee Vote:

E. Costello: .....Yea  
 K. Burnett: ..... Abstain  
 R. Dorsey: ..... Nay  
 D. McCray: .....Yea  
 S. Green Middleton: .....Yea  
 I. Schleifer: .....Yea  
 R. Stokes, Sr.: .....Yea

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: October 29, 2021

cc: Bill File  
 OCS Electronic File

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 10-26-21

BILL #: 21-0121

BILL TITLE: American Rescue Plan Funds – Performance Oversight

MOTION BY: McCray      SECONDED BY: Middleton

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Costello, Eric - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, Kristerfer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, Ryan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCray, Danielle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stokes, Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Eric T. Costello, ETC/m.m.c.

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: m.m.c.



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> Council Bill – American Rescue Plan Funds – Performance Oversight	<b>Bill #:</b> 21-0121
<b>Committee:</b> Ways and Means	<b>Chair:</b> Eric T. Costello
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, November 9, 2021	<b>Time:</b> 9:59 AM
<b>Location:</b> WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<b>Testify</b>	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>See hearing Notes</i>					

\*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

### Ways and Means

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Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Virtual Webex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code:  
179 450 4650, Password: Public, Link:  
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb3017c7d3b6f58997e5602787864fd39)  
MTID=eb3017c7d3b6f58997e5602787864fd39

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21-0121

Announced under 10-4 to waive the requirement that public bill hearing

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 21-0121

##### **American Rescue Plan Funds - Performance Oversight**

For the purpose of requiring the Director of the Department of Finance, with input from collaborating agencies, to provide the City Council with monthly reports, quarterly briefings, equity assessments, and annual reports regarding the disbursement and management of the \$641 million in federal funding the City of Baltimore has received from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and providing for the termination of this Ordinance.

**Sponsors:** President Nicholas J. Mosby, Eric T. Costello, Sharon Green Middleton, Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Robert Stokes, Sr., John T. Bullock, Odette Ramos, James Torrence, Zeke Cohen

A motion was made by member McCray, seconded by member Middleton, that Ordinance 21-0121 be recommended favorable. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Costello, McCray, Middleton, "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Stokes Sr.

**No:** 1 - Dorsey

**Abstain, COI:** 1 - Burnett

#### ADJOURNMENT