



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Dates: June 3, 2022

Budget Hearings – Day Four – June 3, 2022

Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP)

Time (Beginning): 9:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:45 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40

Comptrollers' Office

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM
Time (Ending): 1:20 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Environmental Control Board (ECB)

Time (Beginning): 2:35 PM
Time (Ending): 2:55 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OE&CR)

Time (Beginning): 3:00 PM
Time (Ending): 3:35 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Small Business Development (MOMWOSBD)

Time (Beginning): 3:40 PM
Time (Ending): 4:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)

Time (Beginning): 4:05 PM
Time (Ending): 4:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation (MOPI)

Time (Beginning): 4:30 PM
Time (Ending): 5:25 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Time (Beginning): 6:05 PM
Time (Ending): 6:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 60

Fire Department

Time (Beginning): 7:00 PM
Time (Ending): 8:15 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40

Committee Members in Attendance: Day Four

Eric T. Costello Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Robert Stokes, Sr. Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton

Excused Absence: Kristerfer Burnett

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Reginald Moore, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Bill Henry, Comptroller's Office
- Rebecca Woods, Environment Control Board

- Dana Moore, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Paul Taylor, Mayor's Office of Minority.....
- Catalina Rodriguez-Lima, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Dan Hymowitz, Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation
- Chief Wallace, Office of Emergency Management
- Niles Ford, Fire Department

Major Issues Discussed

June 6, 2022 – Day Five– Budget Hearings

1. Nine (9) representatives came before the committee/councilmembers to talk about his/her fiscal year 2023 budget proposal. **Copies of all PowerPoint Presentations are on file**
2. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. And, if applicable went over the responses to letters of information sent to them. Some highlights of same were:
 1. **Department of Recreation and Parks**
 - The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **The committee/councilmembers went over the responses to letter sent**
 - **Tree Stump Removal**
 - What processes are involved for removing a tree stump?
 - Who is the contractor for stump grinding?
 - When do you expect the backlog for stump removals to get down to two (2) months? **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide a response by Tuesday, June 7, 2022**
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide a written narrative on how you plan to bring in additional contractors for stump grinding by June 7, 2022. To include; list of existing equipment, equipment that need to be replaced and funds needed for same.**
 - Do you know how many tree stumps need to be removed?
 - How many stumps have been removed since November 2021?
 - Concern – removing every stump with every tree removal
 - Payout liabilities from limbs falling from trees – is of concern
 - Removing trees in an efficient matter – is of concern
 - You understand our frustration on this topic; new solutions are needed!
 - **Requested by Member Schleifer: Provide a list of how many stumps were removed for the following fiscal years: 2020, 2021 and 2022**
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: Bid Protest - Provide who protested the bids for tree stump removal (who and why)**
 - **Procurement**
 - We have a serious procurement problem; the problem is procurement not Rec and Parks
 - **Apprenticeship Programs**
 - Now is a good time for an apprenticeship program to help add to staff hiring
 - You should connect with city schools

- More field trips are needed at all Rec Centers (more funding is needed)
- Increased salaries are needed to retain the Department's employees
- **Youth Workers**
 - What are some of the jobs to be assigned to them?
- **Herring Run Park** – is of concern; some issues pertaining to same
- **Public Events**
 - The events assigned to DOT versus those assigned to Rec and Parks – is of concern; some issues pertaining to same
 - Who will on the long-term be in charge of Permits?
- **Recreation Centers**
 - How many rec centers do we have?
 - Concern: Inequity within 5th District – There are no rec centers and not enough playgrounds either!
 - In the past five years for capital projects, have you made a request for a rec center in the 5th district? **Answer: No**
 - You have not taken any steps to further this request or to correct this inequity!
 - **Requested by Member Schleifer: Provide a breakdown of any tangible projects, district by district for the past five years.**
- **Staffing/Employees**
 - Staff are underpaid – is of concern
 - There is a need for more professionalism to help raise standards for recruitment
 - Retention – is of concern
- **Park Ranger Program**
 - Have you thought about extended this program? Talk about this
 - When will we see the full function of this Division?
 - What will be the duties associated with same?
 - Rules and laws of Parks
 - What happens when policies or permits are not provided by the park users? What are the Rangers' next steps to performing his/her job? If a Ranger is not fully empowered, what then?
 - Do they receive de-escalation training? Example: A loose dog could place people in danger!
 - More outreach is needed to making sure people feel safe and welcomed in our park spaces
- **Baltimore Zoo** – have some infrastructure problems that need to be addressed as soon as possible.
- **Requested by Member Ramos, Provide a list of all capital projects by district, for fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023**
- **Pool Openings**
 - How do you communicate the openings and closing of pools to the public?
 - Can the Council sign up for the alerts you send out? **Answer: Yes**

II. Comptroller's Office

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **City Property**
 - What is the status of the city's effort to create a list of city property for sale?
 - What is the possibility of putting together a database of properties owned by all city agencies for public reference
 - **Procurement**
 - Will be on the reform task force; would like a more hands-on role.
 - **Questions**
 - How many Comptroller controlled lots had calls for hazardous tree removal?
 - There are only eight DPW workers for vacant lot maintenance. Will Real Estate put more resources into lot maintenance?
 - **Comments**
 - We could use a uniform system for disposing of vacant properties; a block by block strategy!

III. Environmental Control Board

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Questions**
 - How many members of your staff speak Spanish?
 - **Comment(s)**
 - The Housing and Community Development enforcement efforts are showing changes in the amount of ECD cases.
 - **Water billing appeals** – talk about this

IV. Office of Equity and Civil Rights

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Questions**
 - How many members of your staff speak Spanish?
 - **Equity Data Analysts**
 - Each agency is looking at equity differently
 - **Comment(s)**
 - The communities that need us the most are not dialing 311 because of distrust!
 - **Restitution and Penalties Collected**
 - Performance Measures – Why are the percentages so low and what is your office doing to correct it?
 - Is the backlog gone? **Answer: Yes**
 - **Wage Violations and Penalties**
 - When an employer does not pay an employee the correct wages and when the penalties are collected where do these payments go?
 - **Per Member Dorsey: Would like to know more about penalties being waived.**
 - **Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide a break out for how much was paid to wage victims during fiscal years, 2020, 2021 and 2022.**
 - **Civil Rights Commission**
 - Has the Commission received any complaints and if so, how many?

V. Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Small Business Development

- **MBE – Women-Owned Contractors**
 - How many are in your database? **Answer: Approximately 1,500.**
- **Main Streets**
 - Can you talk about how Main Streets can become involved in the Affiliate Program?
- **Timely Payment of Invoices**
 - We have received several complaints regarding minority contractors not being paid on time; what strategies are in place to getting them paid on time?

VI. Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Questions**
 - What is the possibility for adding a metric for Conflict Remediation?
 - What is the role of your Program Manager?
 - What are you doing to education people about how to use the 311 Center; especially the Spanish version?
 - Wage theft and wage enforcement, what collaboration with other agencies do you have to enforce these issues? Talk about this.
 - **ARPA Funds**
 - What were some of your requests?
 - Talk about some of the enhancements you anticipate from ARPA funding
 - Have you heard anything about your requests?
 - Councilmember Ramos thanked the Director and her team for the good work of the Office.

VII. Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation

- Director Hymowitz gave an overview of the Office. He talked about:
 - Highlights associated with Office
 - Citi Stat
 - How data is use and what data is used for
- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - **Budget**
 - There is a 60% increase in your budget over what is budgeted this year.
 - Why the increase?
 - What additional duties and/or other tangible things are going to be done?
 - “Return on Investment” – What will it be?
 - Can you talk about some of the improvements with service deliveries?
 - **Clean Stat**
 - Did you know that DPW was performing street sweeping in some areas of the city but not in others? Were you aware of this?
 - **Neighborhood Stat** – Stats are completed every quarter! This is not enough
 - **Indicators Around Vacant Properties**
 - Can you take a look at this?
 - We need investment data as well as return on investment data
 - **Overall Office**
 - Talk about what your offices does

- Is most of your budget for staff? **Answer: Yes**
- How many employees do you have?
- How many employees are assigned to Citi Stat? **Answer: Four (4)**
- Comments regarding the importance of data collection within other agencies
- Comments regarding the importance of commitment and cooperation among and/or within agencies
- **Data/Dashboards**
 - Will data and updates be available on the dashboard(s) to share with the public? If so, it can be a tool for behavioral change collectively within communities.
- **Consumer Survey(s)**
 - Have any been released yet?
 - Comments regarding integrating data from surveys into real time performance
 - Comments regarding the importance of reaching as many residents as possible
 - Will the Council be briefed and/or receive information regarding the data received from the surveys?

VIII. Office of Emergency Management (OEM)/Fire Department

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

Office of Emergency Management

- **ARPA Funding**
 - Were there any ARPA requests on behalf of OEM? **Answer: Yes**
 - **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide the request that was submitted for the two (2) Planner positions.**
- Chairman Costello and other members thanked Chief Wallace and his team for the good service and/or work done.
- **Coop Plan**
 - Talk about this Plan
 - Explain the purpose of the Plan
- **Overall Office**
 - How can the Council help with your enforcement capabilities?

Fire Department

- **ARPA Funding**
 - Did you apply for ARPA funding? **Answer Yes**
- **Employees/Department**
 - Are the 911 employees cross-trained?
 - New employees – Are any of them going to firehouses?
 - How many bureaus are within your Department? And, what are they?
 - Who fills your vacancies?
- **City Residency Requirement**
 - How many of your Chiefs are city residents?
 - Bureau Heads
 - How much money are we spending on them? The ones who should be a city resident?
- **Apprenticeship Program**
 - Is glad this program is still in your department. My colleagues and I would love to be a part of the program!

- Which schools participates in the Program? **Some answers: Patterson, Dunbar and Booker T. Washington.**
 - **Performance Measures for Service 614**
 - The performance measures for this service is quite low compared to the past four (4) years. What is going on?
 - **Requested by member Conway: Provide a narrative for what factors and/or causes are for the low performance**
 - Vacant and abandon properties – is of real concern
 - **Firefighters** – This year we really felt how much we need our firefighters!
 - Talk about your recruitment efforts as well as about bi-lingual recruitment efforts
 - Injuries to firefighters
 - How is the Department mitigating risk for injuries?
 - **Engine 27**
 - **Requested by member Porter: Provide an update regarding the maintenance of and/or relocation for same**
 - **Engines 14, 27 and 31 – Renovation**
 - Where is the funding coming from for repairs?
 - The **Blight Elimination Task Force** should be re-created!
 - **Vehicle Collision** – your numbers are up! Why are the numbers trending in the wrong direction?
 - **Requested by member Ramos: Provide more data regarding repairs, overtime and etc. for same**
 - The Chairman and other members thanked the Firefighters for their good work performance.
3. Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on June 6, 2022.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see “red and yellow” highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File

Date: June 22, 2022



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 –
Day Four – BUDGET HEARINGS Bill #: 22-0235

Committee: Ways and Means Chair: Eric T. Costello

Date: **Friday, June 3, 2022** Time: 9:00 AM

Location: **Council Chambers**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reginald	Moore	BCRP					
Jada	Smith	BCRP					
Dan	Cox	BCRP					
Kevin	King	BCRP					
Darryl	Sutton	BCRP					
Nicole	Green	BCRP					
Tierra	Brown	BCRP					

*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



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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ed	Wheeler	BCRP					
Josh	Wilson	MORP					
Tim	Almoguera	BCRP					
Adam	Willis	Media					
Brittany	Vendryas	ECB					
Khadija	Farahmand	7 E Redwood					
Dana	Moore	C + Equity					

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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
JAMES	Wallace	OEM					
TENEA	REDDICK	BCFD					
DANTE	STEWART	BCFD					
Niles	Ford	Fire					
Roman	Clark	Fire					
Blair	Adams	Fire					
Kim	Washington	Fire					

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JIM	Fischer	BCFD	✓				

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City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Ways and Means

Friday, June 3, 2022

9:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

22-0235: Budget Hearings: Day 4: Agency Group 3 CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

- Present** 5 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.
- Excused** 1 - Kristerfer Burnett
- Absent** 1 - Danielle N. McCray

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2023 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing called to recess; to reconvene on Monday, June 6, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT