



## HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 25-0021R

### Informational Hearing – Well-being of the Lesbian Women in Baltimore

**Committee:** Public Health and Environment  
**Chaired by:** Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**Time (Beginning):** 11:20 AM

**Time (Ending):** 12:05 PM

**Location:** **Council Chambers**

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 50 In-Person  
Approximately 05 Virtually

#### Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter	Mark Conway
James Torrence	Mark Parker
Odette Ramos	

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 at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

#### Major Speakers (*This is not an attendance record.*)

- Melanie Bryant, Office of LGBTQ Affairs
- Tica Torres – Baltimore City Commission on LGBTQ Affairs
- Keith Holt, Consultant/Speaker
- Lunez. Smith, Speaker

## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter called the hearings to order; both LO25-0021R and LO25-0015R.
2. Dr. Melanie Bryant gave a PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "Baltimore City LGBTQ Affairs. A copy is on file.
3. Two (2) attendees gave public testimony. Some highlighted comments and/or topics of discussion were:
  - Black gay men are greatly underrepresented!
  - Mental health issues in the community
    - Statistics regarding: HIV/Diseases for gay men
    - Hate crimes
  - Workforce development needed
  - Training needed
  - Housing needed
  - Challenges experienced by LGBTQ students, such as bullying.
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - Concerns
    - Housing needs – talk about this
    - Access to health care
      - To Dr. Bryant: Talk about the type of partnerships you have with hospitals
    - Violence towards transpeople and their wellness
      - How are you (to Dr. Bryant) helping with this issue?
    - Undocumented issues – is of concern
      - Talk about this
  - Question(s)
    - Is your office prepared to develop report(s) for constituents? And, if so, will one be prepared before the end of year? Answer: Yes
    - Do we know what the impact of federal cuts are or will be? Any sense of same?
    - How many of our city partners go through actual training?
  - Comments:
    - Talked about the importance of collaboration!
    - A committee member talked about the Carlin Smith Act that was recently passed and stated, I want to make sure we are on board with the new law.
      - **The Carlton R. Smith Jr. HIV Modernization Act** (often referred to as the "Carlin Smith Act" or Carlton Smith Act") in Maryland is a landmark piece of legislation that **repealed the state's outdated HIV criminalization laws**.
      - When it comes to economic mobility, we need to look more into the LGBTQ community!
  - Requests:
    - By Chairwoman Porter:
      - Slide three (3) of the PowerPoint Presentation, "Entitled, 'Equity & Inclusiveness: Training'

- Request: That the training listed on this slide be made “Mandatory”
- By Chairwoman Porter:
  - Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Commission meetings
  - Request: That a Council liaison be present (to attend) at all Commission meetings.
- By Committee Member Ramos:
  - Municipal Identifications (ID's)
  - Request: Where are we with this? Provide an update on the status of same.
- By Committee Member Ramos:
  - Federal cuts to Housing – are of concern
  - What is the plan to address the cuts? Please provide an update for same.

5. Mr. T. Torres talked about some of things the new Commission on LBGTQ Affairs is doing and/or plans to do. Chairwoman Porter stated, “the Council will be relying on the new Commission for working on your agenda needs. Training and technical assistance are needed! We want you to be up front with us when it comes to your needs!”

6. Per Chairwoman Porter, “this conversation will be “ever on-going.” Hearing recessed.

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#### Further Study

Was further study requested?  
If yes, describe.

Yes  No

1. See highlighted red and yellow requests above.

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*Marguerite M. Currin*  
Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File

Date: December 8, 2025



# Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

0021 R

Subject: <b>Resolution:</b> Informational Hearing – Well-being of <del>Gay Men</del> in Baltimore	<b>Lesbian Women</b>		Resolution # 25-002 R		
Committee: Public Health and Environment			Chair: Phylicia Porter		
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025			Time: 10:00 AM		
Location: Council Chambers					
<b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>			What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
<b>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email			
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chinedu	Mukewar	Prize Center of Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*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/> OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Public Health & Environment Committee

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Wednesday, December 3, 2025

11:49 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone: #1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2337 544 9250, Password: Public, Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m84973879e919024a04bf0ab39a8245bf>

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#### Council Resolutions 25-0015R, 25-0020R and 25-0021R

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present 5 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

Absent 2 - Ryan Dorsey, and John Bullock

#### **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

25-0015R Informational Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore

FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to, and the general well being of, the transgender community in Baltimore.

Hearing was recessed.

25-0020R Informational Hearing – Well being of Gay Men in Baltimore

FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil

Rights, the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to, and the general well being of, gay men in Baltimore.

Hearing was recessed.

25-0021R Informational Hearing – Well being of Lesbian Women in Baltimore

FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to, and the general well being of, lesbian women in Baltimore.

Hearing was recessed.

**ADJOURNMENT**