



HEARING NOTES
Council Resolution: 20-0231R

Informational Hearing – Bringing Back Victory Gardens

Committee: Health
Chaired by: Kristerfer Burnett
Hearing Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020
Time (Beginning): 5:00 PM
Time (Ending): 6:35 PM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chamber
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kristerfer Burnett Mary Pat Clarke
Edward Reisinger Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Reisinger		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Schleifer		
Final Vote:	Favorable		

Major Speakers
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Lisa McNeily, Office of Sustainability
- D'Paul Nibber, Health Department
- Matt Stegman, Mayor
- Jenny Morgan, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Abby Cocke, Office of Sustainability

- Doris Minor-Terrell, Broadway East Community
 - Lee Jordan, Black Yield Institution
 - Harold McCrary, City Farms Program
 - Marcus Williams, University of Maryland Extension
 - Katherine Lautue, Baltimore Green Space
 - Temitope (Tope) Fajingbesi, Dodo Farms
 - Courtney Hobson, Speaker
 - Tom Curtin, Speaker
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Burnett, the primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. "He gave a brief overview of what Victory Gardens are; what the Resolution does and stated how the hearing would be conducted." The chairman also talked about the letters (written testimony) that were received from Green Street Academy; read a few of them and informed the attendees that copies of the letters were placed in the bill file.
2. Abby Cocke, Office of Sustainability gave a PowerPoint presentation about community gardens. **A copy is on file.**
3. Several representatives served as panelists and others speakers testified. Some highlighted topics and/or remarks were:
 1. The representative from **Black Yield Institute** talked about:
 1. What the organization does
 2. What the organization located in Cherry Hill does
 - Currently working on starting a food store in Cherry Hill
 3. Talked about:
 - the Urban Agriculture Initiative
 - Their food gardens
 - About how much food they are able to distribute to community as a result of the food gardens
 - Community garden makes up approximately 27 beds and grows fruit, vegetables and sunflowers
 - The bi-monthly pop-up market
 - Uses the voices of community for making progress
 - Comment: We build the community by using the land
 2. The representative from the **City Farms Program** talked about:
 - Is the Baltimore City Farms' Coordinator
 - What program does
 - There are 11 city gardens scatter throughout the city
 - Program participants ranges in ages from 21 years to 99 years' old
 - Teaches people how to cultivate and enrich soil; how to grow food and flowers
 - Distributes a lot of food to community
 - Program builds communities and engages people from diverse backgrounds and with common interest
 - Outreach efforts
 - Workshops are available and is a learning tool

- Funding sources
 - A goal is to cultivate students to work in gardens
 - The importance of understanding the environment; when gardening you come to understand the importance of the environment!
 - Everyone across the country are now creating victory gardens
 - The program is wonderful, he said.
3. The representative from **Baltimore Green Space** talked about:
- There are over 248 garden spaces available and 60 to 90% are located in neighborhoods with low income
 - The pandemic has caused a rise in the use of the gardens
 - Been with the organization for over 8 years
 - Urges all to support Resolution
4. The representative from the **University of Maryland Extension Program** talked about:
- Is his employer
 - The mission of the program and how it is funded
 - Teaches nutrition classes and does “canning”
 - Strongly supports the Resolution and can think of several positive reasons why we should have community gardens
 - Having these gardens helps facilitate communities to communicate more
2. The representative from **Dodo Farms** talked about:
- The importance of agriculture
 - Her farm is located in Montgomery County on two (2) acres of land
 - They only use natural products in their gardens; no chemical
 - Talked about some of the chemicals that are used in other food production facilities
 - The cost of land is high! Need to use land for what it was used for in the past!
 - The pandemic has shown the importance of growing food
 - Since the pandemic people are more particular about what they eat
 - Comment: “Farming While Black, is the same as being black”
 - About some of the obstacles associated with farming
 - Farming gardens were not very diverse in the beginning; but this have changed over time
 - Hope to engage more young people into agriculture; it is very rewarding
3. Two people who called in testified. Highlighted comments, concerns, etc. were:
- Supports Resolution
 - Question/Concern: How does the city plan to preserve the current gardens? **A representative from the Office of Sustainability answered this question.**
4. The committee/council members asked several questions and asked the panelists to **chime in** to answer. Some were:
1. What are the biggest barriers to starting gardens? And, what are some ways the city can do better jobs?
- **Answers:**
 - **More education is needed for the public and communities**
 - **Easier access to capital is needed**
 - **More teaching in high schools**
 - * **internships**
 - * **teaching what agriculture is all about**

- * streamline the processes needed
- * better water accessibility
- * a lead area (one stop shop) is needed for community garden for those who want to take on gardening
- *Comment: Some of the younger generation don't know where food comes from!
- *Getting needed information out and need more curriculum in schools (More Green Schools)
- * Land accessibility
- * More tax credits needed
- * Need more capacity
- *Access to healthy soil
- * More investment in public education

2. What would be the advice you give to people who want to start their own gardens?

■ Answers:

- Councilman Reisinger explained what the people in his district does (Cherry Hill, Curtis Bay, and etc.) to start gardens. He also talked about student involvement in same.
- Councilwoman Clarke talked about some of her childhood experiences associated with same:
 - As a child she lived with a world war victory garden; her family grew a garden along with others in the community
 - They often bartered with each other; depending on what each family grew
 - She also talked about the Baltimore Green Space Program; about why the program was started
 - She talked about some chemicals that are used in growing food today and that she is trying to stop some of those chemicals from being used
- Chairman Burnett talked about how and why he started gardening:
 - Is an avid gardener himself
 - Experienced several problems in the beginning but eventually became addicted to gardening
 - Suggests starting small and then expand
- Other answers given by Panelists were:
 - Patience is needed
 - Can't cut corners
 - Must establish motive and have a clear plan (is key for everything)
 - Be ready to correct mistakes
 - Keep at it and you will succeed
 - Planting is powerful and eventually you will see the long term impact
 - Must be flexible and accessible to changing when necessary

5. Chairman Burnett explained what a Resolution does:

- A Resolution is a way to getting information out
- A way to having a meaning conversation(s)
- Is a way to initiate conversations and for getting needed information to get things done

6. Vote taken. Hearing concluded.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

K. Burnett Yea
B. Henry..... Absent
M. Clarke Out of Meeting
E. Reisinger Yea
I. Schleifer: Yea

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: August 14, 2020

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: August 5, 2020

RESOLUTION #: 20-0231R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Informational Hearing – Bringing Back Victory Gardens

MOTION BY: Reisinger SECONDED BY: Schleifer

☒ FAVORABLE

☐ FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

☐ UNFAVORABLE

☐ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Burnett, Kristerfer - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, Bill - Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarke, Mary Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisinger, Edward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS	3	—	2	—

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, [Signature] /m.m.c

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



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: **Council Resolution**— Informational Hearing – Bringing Back Victory Gardens

Resolution #: 20-0231R

Committee: Health

Chair: Kristerfer Burnett

Date: **Wednesday, August 5, 2020**

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

What is
your
position on
this bill?

Lobbyist:
Are you
registered in
the City?*

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



Testify

For

Against

Yes

No

First Name

Last Name

Address / Organization / Email

John

Doe

400 N. Holliday St.
Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

See Hearing
Notes

*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

Health

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

5:00 PM Virtual Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 129
014 1403, Password: Public,
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=a9c1d798c366d39373d9bbf94239896da)
MTID=a9c1d798c366d39373d9bbf94239896da

20-0231R
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Kristerfer Burnett, Mary Pat Clarke, Edward Reisinger, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Absent 1 - Bill Henry

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

20-0231R

Informational Hearing - Bringing Back Victory Gardens

For the purpose of inviting the Health Commissioner, the Director of Recreation and Parks, the Director of Sustainability, and community leaders to discuss the efficacy of increasing community gardens within our neighborhoods in order to offset COVID-19 and its ancillary effects as well as generally making our City a greener, healthier, and cleaner place to live.

Sponsors: Kristerfer Burnett, John T. Bullock, President Brandon M. Scott, Danielle McCray, Bill Henry, Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, Edward Reisinger, Zeke Cohen, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Mary Pat Clarke

A motion was made by Reisinger, seconded by "Yitzy" Schleifer, that City Council Resolution 20-0231R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Burnett, Reisinger, and "Yitzy" Schleifer

Absent: 1 - Henry

Out-Chamber: 1 - Clarke

ADJOURNMENT