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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter
Chair**

PUBLIC HEARING

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Resolution 25-0020R

Informational Hearing – Well-being of Gay Men in Baltimore

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Antonio Glover – Vice Chair
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Paris Gray
Staff: Ethan Navarre (410-396-1266)

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR
ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES
NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR
100 N. HOLIDAY STREET
BALTIMORE MD, 21202

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Council Resolution: 25-0020R

Informational Hearing – Well-being of Gay Men in Baltimore **HEARING RECONVENING**

Sponsor: *Councilmembers Porter, et al*
Introduced: April 28, 2025

Purpose:

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.

Effective: Upon enactment.

Analysis

Background

The committee held its first hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Following are notes taken during the hearing:

Major Speakers

- Alexis Blackmon, Office of LGBTQ Affairs
- Zachary Wellman, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Major Jenkins, Baltimore City Police Department
- Melissa Broome, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Keisha Howard, Mental Health Coordinator
- K. Holt, Speaker
- L. Smith, Speaker

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks.
2. Chairwoman Porter went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
3. Approximately two (2) attendees gave public testimony. Some highlighted comments and/or topics of discussion were:
 - Talked about some of the hateful attacks and/or crimes occurring
 - Dangerous encounters
 - We are your uncles, nephews and/or etc.
 - We need action
 - Rental assistance and/or home ownership
 - HIV funding
 - We need you to see us!
 - We will not be erased!
 - Supports Resolution
 - Concern: Sexual health disparities – [Also see committee request below](#)
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
 - [Question\(s\)](#)
 - Some discussion regarding training availability within the police academy
 - [Comments](#):
 - To the community: “We (Council) will protect you!
 - The Council is committed to all communities in the city!
 - Baltimore is a welcoming City to all people and is proud of same!
 - Several committee/council members thanked the attendees and agency representatives for attending the hearing.
5. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Committee Request:

*. [By Chairwoman Porter: To Health Department](#)

- a. Provide an update and/or list of the chronic health diseases in the gay community, to include what is being done to address same.

On [Wednesday, December 3, 2025](#), the committee will reconvene.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Notes taken during June 11, 2025, committee hearing.

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin
Analysis Date: December 1, 2025

Marguerite Currin

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485