



**HEARING NOTES**

**Legislative Oversight: LO25-0021**

**City’s Response to the Opioid Crisis**

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

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
**Time (Beginning):** 10:05 AM  
**Time (Ending):** 12:00 Noon  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 30 In-Person  
 Approximately 20 Virtually

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Phylicia Porter      Ryan Dorsey      Odette Ramos  
 Mark Parker      Mark Conway      James Torrence

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

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Mayor’s Office
- Michelle Taylor, Health Department
- Julia Roche, Health Department
- Miles Lichtman, Mayor’s Office of Opioid Response (MOOR)
- Bobby Harris, MOOR Consultant
- Stefanie Mavronis, Mayor’s Office of Neighbors and Safety Engagement
- Public Testimony/Speakers
  - Darci Curwen-Garber, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
  - Thelma Davis, Speaker

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks and afterward received public testimony.
2. Public Testimony (two [2] speakers). One speaker talked about her road towards recovery, (past addiction) and the importance of two (2) resources: housing and long-term treatment.
3. Dr. Dzirasa and Ms. Michelle Taylor joined together to present and discuss a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
  - Question(s)/Comments/Concerns/etc.:
    - Surveillance Mechanism
      - Notification Pertaining to Mass Overdoses
        - How are you utilizing that system with our local partners?
        - I would appreciate a more detailed approach!
    - Testing Kits
      - Comments regarding the kind of and/or availability of kits
      - What is the protocol for the new and/or upcoming drugs on the market? And the trends for same?
    - Harm Reduction
      - Talk about what your definition is for harm reduction
      - Resources and oversight for harm reduction is important and of concern!
      - Comments pertaining to sustainable methods for going into treatment
    - Penn-North
      - Talk about what is happening in this area
      - Is thankful for the city's responses to same
      - Comment: Talked about the importance of treating all people with respect
    - How are you connecting people with available housing resources?
    - Tracking Treatment
      - There is a need for a "deeper dive" into drug overdoses! Many are not from Baltimore City
      - Tracking: We need to track who are receiving resources and services!
    - Open Air Drug Markets
      - This is a concern!
      - This has been an issue for a long time!
      - Opportunities are needed for those young folks out there selling drugs!
        - A comprehensive approach is needed!
    - Listening Sessions
      - Can you share some of the key take a ways and/or strategic plans as a result of these sessions?
    - Responses and Keeping People Safe
      - Responses for mass overdoses
        - Who is accountable for same?

- How do you determine who and/or which agencies are accountability for what? Such as: A public health vs. a public safety response?
  - A committee member gave comments and expressed appreciation for the city's partnership with State, Local and Federal public safety partners.
  - A committee member thanked the agency representatives for "rapid responses."
  - Predatory Providers
    - Comments and concerns regarding predatory providers
    - We must continue to reward good actors and discipline bad actors!
  - Overall System
    - How do we change it?
    - How do we help people take the next steps after withdrawal?
    - It is important that people know what next steps are available for them!
  - There was some discussion and questions regarding "Spot Van"
- Notification System
  - It is my understanding that funding was taken away for this system!
    - Are we thinking about bringing this system back? **Answer: Yes**
    - And if so, how much would it cost?
    - There was also comments regarding "text notification system"
- Disinvested Areas
  - Comments and concerns expressed regarding vacant properties reduction strategy(s)
    - Better alignment is needed for the areas that need it the most!
    - Have you had any conversation with the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding same?
- Blitzes - In the context of drug overdose cases, a "blitz" typically refers to an intense, rapid, and coordinated effort by multiple agencies or groups to combat the issue.
  - How are you engaging with different agencies and partners regarding same?
  - The approach can not only be from a "public safety" perspective!
  - Working groups for neighborhoods within each district
    - Talk about this!
- Empowering Communities
  - Comments and concerns were talked about, to include the importance of building and equipping communities
- A committee member stated that he was glad to see the "Inspection Task Force" evolving and talked about some of progress he notified that pertains to same
- **Requests by committee members**
  - **Chairwoman Porter**
    - 1. Mass Overdose Protocol ETA – Do you have it? If so, provided by the end of this calendar year
    - 2. ETA Data Use Agreement , as soon as possible, on a monthly basis, provide an update for same.
    - 3. ETA Plan Development – do you know when it will be available?
      - Mobil Street Outreach Plan – Provide a month-to-month update on developing this Plan
  - **Committee member Mark Conway**
    - Reestablishing the Notification System
      - Provide updates on the status of same

5. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks, "she stated:
    - a. We must continue to focus on sustaining true recovery, better quality of life and true abstinence.
    - b. At the next hearing I would like to focus on the data and measurements for Overdose Response Strategy(s), including sustainability measures as well.
  6. Hearing recessed; to reconvene at a later date.
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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?  
If yes, describe.**

Yes  No

1. See "red" highlights above.
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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File

Date: October 28, 2025

## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Legislative Oversight: City's Response to the Opioid Crisis</b>	# LO25-0021
Committee: <b>Public Health and Environment</b>	Chair: <b>Phylicia Porter</b>
Date: <b>Wednesday, October 22, 2025</b>	Time: <b>10:00 AM</b>
Location: <b>Council Chambers</b>	

<b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>			What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<b><u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u></b>							
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<b>Testify</b>	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
stefanie	Mavronis	MONEY 2700 KAYNOR AVENUE STEFANIE MAVRONIS@BMTMONEY 017600V					
Darci	Curwen-Garber	Baltimore harm Reduction Coalition	✓				
Thelma	Davis	Speaker	✓				

\*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

## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject: <span style="color: red;">Legislative Oversight:</span> City's Response to the Opioid Crisis</b>	<b># LO25-0021</b>
<b>Committee: Public Health and Environment</b>	<b>Chair: Phylcia Porter</b>
<b>Date: <span style="background-color: yellow;">Wednesday, October 22, 2025</span></b>	<b>Time: 10:00 AM</b>
<b>Location: <span style="color: red;">Council Chambers</span></b>	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thelma	Davis	Ms Thelma's Oasis LLC 1712 Burnwood Rd Bald. Md 21239	✓				

\*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

### Public Health & Environment Committee

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Wednesday, October 22, 2025

10:00 AM  
Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:  
#1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2342 035 7833, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=mf0e7f1ebd5ded6a029766a5069b1f14c)  
MTID=mf0e7f1ebd5ded6a029766a5069b1f14c

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#### LO25-0021 - City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 6 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

**Absent** 1 - John Bullock

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0021 City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

For the purpose: to provide a platform for city agencies, healthcare providers, and community advocates to discuss ongoing challenges, identify service gaps, and explore policy solutions to enhance Baltimore's collective response to opioid addiction and overdose prevention.

Hearing called to recess.

#### ADJOURNMENT