

SEVENTH DAY

FIRST COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2024-2028

JOURNAL
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

March 24, 2025

Rev. Dr. Robert Richard Allen Turner of the Empowerment Temple AME Church delivered an opening prayer.

Led by Marine veteran, Councilmember Zac Blanchard, the President and members of the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The City Council of Baltimore met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Zeke Cohen, President, and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of March 10, 2025 was read and approved.

Journal of the City Council**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR****APPROVED BY THE MAYOR****OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Zeke Cohen, Council President
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Honorable President Cohen and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to inform your Honorable Body that I have signed into law this day the following bills:

25-0007 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programming – \$270,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$270,000 to the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programming – Service 916 (Opioid Restitution Administration), to provide funding for additional positions to oversee grants awarded through the Opioid Restitution Fund; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0008 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programming – \$10,000,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$10,000,000 to the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programming – Service 917 (Opioid Grants - Named Organizations), to provide partial grant funding for non-profit organizations named in settlement agreements; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0009 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Mayoralty – \$1,773,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,773,000 to the Mayoralty – Service 918 (Opioid Restitution Administration), to provide funding for additional positions to provide direction and guidance regarding the City’s opioid response, establishment of the Restitution Advisory Board, contractual support to establish a trust fund for litigation proceeds, and community engagement; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0010 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Law – \$100,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 to the Department of Law – Service 862 (Transactions Contracts), to provide funding to create 2 additional positions to oversee contract agreements with grant organizations; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0011 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Health Department – \$500,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 to the Baltimore City Health Department – Service 715 (Health - Administration), to provide funding for planning costs for a replacement facility for the Westside clinic; and providing for a special effective date.

25-0012 – Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Health Department – \$2,000,000

For the purpose of providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Baltimore City Health Department – Service 307 (Health - Substance Use Disorder), to provide funding for staffing and support costs for opioid response and recovery strategies; and providing for a special effective date.

In service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

MAKEDA DRAKE, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

JAZ ERENBERG, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

SHANEK KUMI, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

MARY ANN MEARS, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

AMY RAEHSE, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

EVAN RICHARDSON, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

STANLEY MAZAROFF, as a Member of the Public Art Commission.

INTRODUCTION AND READ FIRST TIME

The President laid before the City Council the following bills and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council for first reading:

Bill No. 25-0040 - By Councilmembers Middleton and Ramos

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Conway, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, and Glover

An Ordinance making small box discount retail stores a conditional use by approval of the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals in all commercial zoning districts; setting use standards for new small box discount retail stores; and defining certain terms.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0041 - By Councilmember Bullock

An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 3 dwelling units in the R-7 Zoning District on the property known as 2628 Edmondson Avenue, as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting variances regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area) and off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0042 - By the Council President (Administration - Employees' Retirement System)

An Ordinance clarifying the definition of "service" for the members of the Retirement Savings Plan; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Workforce Committee.

Bill No. 25-0043 - By the Council President (Administration - Employees' Retirement System)

An Ordinance increasing the time period required between filing for and commencing receipt of service retirement benefits by Class C members; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Workforce Committee.

Bill No. 25-0044 - By the Council President (Administration - Employees' Retirement System)

An Ordinance purpose of making certain amendments to the membership and qualifications of the members of the Employees' Retirement System's Board of Trustees; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Workforce Committee.

Bill No. 25-0045 - By the Council President (Administration - Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$90,000 to the Department of Recreation and Parks – Service 654 (Urban Forestry), to provide funding for addressing the pressing concerns surrounding the detrimental impact of deer on the forested natural areas within Baltimore City parks, particularly those affecting forest ecology in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") Disadvantaged Communities; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0046 - By the City Council President (Administration - Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$90,236 to the Health Department – Service 723 (Advocacy for Seniors), to provide funding for assisting and guiding care givers of persons with dementia, building community awareness of dementia, and strengthening the ability of area agencies on aging to provide services to the growing number of Marylanders with ADRD and their family care givers; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0047 - By the City Council President (Administration - Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Federal Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$206,822 to the M-R Office of Employment Development – Service 795 (Workforce Services for Baltimore Residents), to provide funding for a Recovery-Friendly Workplace pilot (RFW) to educate the business community about the benefits of providing resources for employees struggling with substance use disorder, and for job seekers in recovery that have barriers to employment because of their previous struggles with substance use; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0048 - By the City Council President (Administration - Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Federal Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,375,655 to the M-R Office of Employment Development – Service 795 (Workforce Services for Baltimore Residents), to provide funding for case management, barrier removal, supportive services, and skills training to workers dislocated by the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, as well as offering occupational skills training to prepare workers to assist with disaster recovery efforts and, eventually, the reconstruction of the bridge; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0049 - By Councilmember McCray (Administration - Department of Transportation)

An Ordinance authorizing the release and surrender by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore of all of its interests in and to the access easement generally described as a 30 foot wide parcel, which extends from Pulaski Highway on the north to the southern boundary of the Property along the entire eastern boundary of the Property (“the Easement Area”), previously granted by WH-Pulaski, LLC, predecessor in interest to the current land owner, 6709 Pulaski, LLC; the location and course of the access easement to be released being created and described by that certain Access Easement Agreement dated October 7, 2011 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Liber 13806, Page 235 (“the Access Easement”).

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0015R - By Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Conway, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, and President Cohen

A Resolution 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.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Public Health and Environment Committee.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, AND 93 ADOPTED UNDER RULE 3-9.

The resolutions were read.

The roll was called on the adoption of the resolutions, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the resolutions adopted under Rule 3-9.

Ceremonial Resolutions will be found at the end of the Journal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BILL NO. 25-0003 REPORTED RECOMMITTED TO COMMITTEE

Councilmember Torrence, for the Housing and Economic Development Committee, reported Bill No. 25-0003 favorably, with amendments.

An Ordinance establishing Conservation Districts; providing a study, proposal, and review process; defining certain terms; and providing for a special effective date.

Councilmember Torrence moved to recommit the bill to the Housing and Economic Committee.

The bill was recommitted to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

THIRD READING

The President laid before the City Council:

BILL NO. 25-0001 - An Ordinance creating the Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing; providing for the leadership and staffing of the Department; establishing the Department's purpose, powers, and duties; creating the Board of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing; providing for the membership of the Board; establishing the purpose, powers, and duties of the Board; transferring the administration of certain business licenses to the Department; repealing certain obsolete Boards; allowing the Department to suspend a certain license if the licensee engages in unfair, abusive, and deceptive trade practices; providing for a special effective date; making conforming changes; and generally relating to consumer protection and business licensing.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 25-0002 - An Ordinance ~~requiring~~ requesting the Baltimore City Public School System ("City Schools") to prepare a report exploring the causes of student absences to better identify solutions to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school; requiring City Schools to collaborate with certain City agencies to propose recommendations to address the root causes of unexcused absences found in the report; and providing for a special effective date.

Councilmember Bullock's Floor Amendment to Bill No. 25-0002

Amendment No. 1

On page 2, in line 30, strike "City Schools shall" insert "The City Council shall invite City Schools to".

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was read the third time.

Copies of the enrolled version of the bill were distributed for members to review.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

ADJOURNMENT

President Cohen adjourned to meet on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

CR0077 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating the following members: Young Elder, Theresa Bruce, Tamar Mendelson, Shawna Murray Browne, Councilwoman Odette Ramos, Paul Galiatsatos, Phil Leaf, Regina Boyce, Nneka Nnamdi, Mark Jews, Monica Guerro Vazquez, Lindsay Gavin, Kevin Daniels, Fareeha Waheed, Donna Bruce, David Fakunle, Desyree Dixon, Corey Witherspoon, Daniel Parsons, Erricka Bridgeford, Steven Czinn, Elijah Davis, Tara Doaty, Lydell Hills, Brenden McFadden, Colby Sangree, Destini Philpot, Mollie Young, Kahlilah Saleem, and A'niya Taylor in recognition of their service on The Mayor's Trauma Informed Care Task Force.

CR0078 Conway

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating the following members: Alec Wheaden, Tamara England Wilson, James Benton, Adrienne Jones, James Haynes, Susan Taylor King, Evelyn McClarry, Chrissy Thorton, and Tamara England Wilson in recognition of their many years of service as President of Loch Raven Improvement Association.

CR0079 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Pastor Lonnie Hardy in recognition of her 13 years of service and support to the Sandtown/Winchester Community.

CR0080 Porter

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Tommie Bethea, October 16, 1959 - March 1, 2025.

CR0081 Porter

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Dr. Joan L. Wharton in recognition of celebrating her retirement from 44 Years in Ministry.

CR0082 Porter

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Rita Crews in recognition of being awarded Golden Status in the Morgan State University's Alpha Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

CR0083 Vice President Middleton

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Robin Neverdon in recognition of celebrating an 18-year journey of strength, growth, and commitment to a healthier path. We celebrate you!

CR0084 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Arbie Dean Webb Jr., April 5, 1953 - February 12, 2025.

CR0085 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Pastor George Nicholson in recognition of celebrating 30 years of service as Pastor.

CR0086 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Aurthor Heard, September 28, 1925 - February 24, 2025.

CR0087 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Daniel "Danny" Clark, October 8, 1959 - March 9, 2025.

CR0088 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Lorraine Bell, May 23, 1931 - March 6, 2025.

CR0089 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Terri Ayers in recognition of celebrating their retirement from 35 years of service for the Bureau of Water & WasteWater.

CR0090 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Deborah Samuel-Myers, July 18, 1956 - March 7, 2025.

CR0091 President Cohen and all Members

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating Rev. James P. Johnson Jr. and Rising Zion Baptist Church in recognition of celebrating their 47th Anniversary.

CR0092 Porter

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating the City of Refuge Baltimore in recognition of 7 years of dedicated service to residents of the South Baltimore Communities.

CR0093 Torrence

A Baltimore City Council Resolution Congratulating the following members: Malinda Garland, Delores Smith, Sophia McMurray, Ms. Star Hasley, Ms. "Cookie" Reid, Willie Mae Turner in recognition of their service to the Druid Heights Community and their support of the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation.