



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO26-0044

B'More Healthy Babies Strategy

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Chaired by: Chairwoman Phylicia Porter

Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM

Time (Ending): 11:00 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 40 In-Person
 Approximately 10 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter Mark Parker
 Odette Ramos James Torrence
 John Bullock

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.)

- Dr. Michelle Taylor, Health Department
- Speakers on behalf of the B'More Healthy Babies Refresh Strategy Program
 - Asia Douglas, Speaker
 - Montre' Braxton, Speaker

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter called the hearing to order.
2. Dr. Taylor introduced members of her team and/or from related agencies. Afterward, she stated, “before we go any further I thought we could hear from some of the people who have been helped and/or assisted by the B’More Healthy Babies Refresh Strategy Program.” Two (2) people spoke. Some comments, topics of discussion and/or etc. were:
 - I was a part of the Nursing Family Partnership Program since my son was three (3) months old; had an amazing nurse and I don’t know how I would have survived without her and/or the Program.
 - They provided diapers, a car seat and basically everything I needed was provided free of charge and I didn’t have to think how I was going to be able to get what was needed.
 - The Program and the staff do amazing things for the community (above and beyond!)
 - My son will be three (3) years old soon and I graduated from the Program approximately one (1) year ago.
 - Although I have graduated from the Program the staff will still be close to my heart!
 - Currently I am still enrolled in the Maryland Infant Mortality Home Visiting Program. I was seventeen (17) years old when I got pregnant! My son will be 2 years old soon!
 - I was only a few weeks pregnant when I enrolled in the Program
 - My home visiting nurse is the best! (above & beyond) – She made sure I understood everything that was going on! She provided an amazing support system and so many resources are/was available!
 - I will be graduating soon but the staff will also be close to my heart!
3. Dr. Taylor informed the attendees that the Program have been in existence for the past seventeen (17) years.
4. No one signed in to give public testimony.
5. Dr. Taylor gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
6. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - Questions/Comments/Concerns:
 - Connection with our Birth Workers and Midwives in the Community
 - How are they integrated in the medical team strategy and model?
 - Comments: Regarding getting the hospitals to understand the importance of having Doulas and birth workers in our Maryland based hospitals.
 - Medicare Reimbursement Rates
 - From an advocacy perspective on a State level, we are noticing a lot of Medicare reimbursement rates for professionals – they are often seen as not being integral!
 - Are you all looking at any type of advocacy or advocacy agenda that includes the integrated medical teams to include some of our community-based organizations, birth workers, doulas and midwives? And how can we as a council support you in this initiative?
 - Connection to Early Learning Centers
 - How are you utilizing these models in connection to early learning centers across the city?
 - **Requested by Chairwoman Porter: Please research and provide an answer to the above question. (The specifics of how it works)**

- Health Department's Budget – Primary Funded through Grants
 - Can you walk me through the strategy on how we are beginning to identify sustainable funds for the Health Department for this initiative?
 - Comments regarding seeking additional funds for this initiative
- Site in the Patterson Park Area:
 - How are you serving the Latino community there?
- Strategies – Intersection of Substance Abuse Disorder and Maternal Outcomes
 - Of the seventeen (17) years you have existed, especially within the past five (5) years what are the interventions data wise? What has been effective as we pay attention to our moms and children in the midst of this narcotic environment?
- Conception and Reproduction Health
 - Are you able to distinguish between the outcomes in the communities we are serving and the broader changes in the landscape?. Draw a picture for us of the progress we have made pertaining to the broader changes.
- Data Interoperability:
 - Concern: The flow of data between hospital systems and others
 - How is the initiative really addressing data interoperability between the health care institutions?
 - Talk to us about how you are sharing data.
 - How are others able to utilize the data? Such as community-based organizations and hospitals?
- Trauma on Women
 - How are you integrating behavioral health trauma screening within your everyday work with families?
 - Follow-up: If things are not getting done, to possibly have a follow-up with that council person if city services are not being done in an equitable and/or high-quality way; to place on the radar!
- Requested by Chairwoman Porter – to Isaiah Griffith
 - When the Strategy(s) are completed please send them to all council members.

7. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See highlights above in "red and yellow."

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: May 19, 2026

Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight: B'more Healthy Babies Strategy	# LO26-0044
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylicia Porter
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Montre'	Braxton	5533 lothian rd BraxtonMontre5@gmail.com	✓				
✓ Asia	Douglas	102 Diener pl Apt 103 asia.douglas2@gmail.com	✓				

*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

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2333 865 7258, Password: Public,
Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m27f7990dbf2da69acd9fb39446657be8)
MTID=m27f7990dbf2da69acd9fb39446657be8

LO26-0044 - B'more Healthy Babies Strategy and Bill 26-0161 - Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Conservation - Conforming Amendments

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent 2 - Mark Conway, and Ryan Dorsey

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO26-0044 B'more Healthy Babies Strategy

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss maternal health in Baltimore City and the B'more for Healthy Babies Initiative's 5-year Strategic Refresh, including priority health issues identified by the Initiative.

LO26-0044 - Hearing called to recess.

26-0161 Natural Resources – Forest and Tree Conservation – Conforming Amendments

FOR the purpose of amending the Forest and Tree Conservation provisions of Article 7 of the Baltimore City Code to comply with new State requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

26-0161 - Hearing recessed; to reconvene later.

ADJOURNMENT