

FY2026 Baltimore City Budget Testimony – Andrew Hinz

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In general the budget is irresponsible in terms of resources allocated to waste diversion.

The police budget should be cut at the same level as other city services, if not more.

The PILOT agreement is not equitable.

I have the following specific requirements:

1. General Fund Item 42981, Service 663: Waste Recycling and Removal, Recycling Program Associate, \$0 in FY26 (was \$49,533). This position should be funded, not cut. One of the explicit duties should be to work with benefits districts to help them divert both yard trimmings, food waste, and other organics away from incineration. Additional duties should be to work with major sources of yard trimmings and food waste and other organics to divert those resources from incineration. Another duty should be, working with the City legal department, to reduce single-use plastics, sold into and consumed in the City. Another duty should be to establish a program through which citizens can volunteer to have their trash and recycling picked up monthly rather than weekly (they would pay the same rate and could be 'rewarded' by an annual picnic, letter of thanks, or a symbolic \$.01 reduction in their monthly bills).
2. General Fund Item 00090, Service 738: Weatherization Services, Operations Manager (non-civil), \$0 in FY26 (was \$121,081). This position should be funded for 5 years and the duties should be modified to be leading the transition of all City housing units from current energy supply to rooftop solar plus storage during the 5-year appointment—all of the units should be transitioned during that tenure. The position should have the authority to enter into contracts to convert city housing to solar plus storage that are revenue neutral to the city or revenue-producing.
3. General Fund Item 00089, Service 185: Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Operations Officer V (non-civil), \$129,855 in FY26. An additional position should be funded for 1 year to develop 25-year plan to redress the harm and loss of life the City caused, and continues to cause, by zoning the Eastern and Southern districts for industrial use on top of pre-existing residential communities.

Thank You

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