



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 24-0521

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello

Hearing Dates: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 – **Day Seven (7)**

Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

Time (Beginning): 9:25 AM
Time (Ending): 10:20 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 30 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Department of Planning

Time (Beginning): 10:20 AM
Time (Ending): 12:05 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Department of Recreation and Parks

Time (Beginning): 1:00 PM
Time (Ending): 3:05 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 65 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Baltimore City Police Department

Time (Beginning): 6:05 PM
Time (Ending): 9:55 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 65 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance: Day Seven

Eric T. Costello Ryan Dorsey
 Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer Sharon Green Middleton
 Kristerfer Burnett

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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers – Day Seven
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Chris Ryer, Director of Planning
- Lauren Schiszik, Acting Director of CHAP
- Laura Larsen, Director, BBMR
- Nichole Stewart, Assistant Director, Planning
- Ben Guthorn, Director of Legislative Reference
- Ava Richardson, Director, Office of Sustainability
- Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use & Urban Design
- Taylor LaFave, Chief of Food Policy and Planning
- Deputy Mayor Justin Williams, Mayor’s Office
- Reginal Moore, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Commissioner Worley, Baltimore City Police Department

Major Issues Discussed

Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

1. A representative from CHAP gave a PowerPoint presentation *(A copy is on file)*.
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc.
 Some highlights of same were:
 - Legislative history of CHAP credit
 - a. Established in 1995
 - b. Use to be renewed every 3 years, but now is only extended annually
 - CHAP areas
 - Removing historic designation on blocks
 - a. No legal process. Would have to be removed via ordinance
 - Partnership between the Planning Department and the Baltimore Heritage Board
 - a. Informal partnership.
 - Councilmember Ramos noted that more work should be focused on expanding the credit in more areas of the city.

- Conservation districts vs. preservation districts
3. Hearing Recessed.

Department of Planning

1. A representative from Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of the same were:
 - Impact of BMZA
 - a. Board carefully deliberating on each case
 - b. Has been successful
 - How does DOP measure investments
 - Main Streets
 - a. DOP's role
 - Capital needs
 - a. \$2 Billion back log
 - b. Currently, the City "piece meal" capital projects
 - Food Environment Map
 - a. The agency has worked with Johns Hopkins since 2012
 - b. Has been recently released
 - Update on Zero Waste and partnership with DPW
 - a. ARPA-funds (4.4M)
 - b. Sustainable training
 - c. Efforts with DGS
 - Collaborative grants
 - Cool Roofs
 - a. Need more of an educational component
 - b. More partnership between DHCD and DOP
 - ARPA funds
 - a. 4 components of funds:
 - Legacy and home repair
 - Developer incentives
 - Community Organizing
 - Tenant conversion
 - b. Wealth-building, middle neighborhoods
 - Clean Corps
 - a. Sustainable lot maintenance
 - 2012 Climate Action Plan Updates
3. Hearing Recessed.

Department of Recreation and Parks

1. The representative from Recreation and Parks gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). He also stated that the Department is now mowing on a weekly schedule instead of a bi-weekly schedule.
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:

- Several council members thanked Director Moore and his team for their good work, job performance.
 - a. Thank you and your team for opening all pools this year! It is good to see our families enjoying same!
 - b. Thank you for your participation in “Trauma Informed Care.”
 - c. Comments regarding redevelopment projects moving forward in designed, in a timely manner and not losing funding for same
 - d. Thank you for all you do with our Seniors!
 - e. Agencies who talk the lead on partnership projects – Thank you for taking lead when necessary!
- Forestry Division
 - a. How is this Division’s partnership relationship with other city agencies? Especially with the Department of Public Works?
 - b. Comments and inquiry regarding “Certification for Forestry Employees.”
 - c. Is the equipment up to date in this division or do you need more equipment? (Note: Comment: The councilmembers are advocates for you if additional equipment is needed)!
 - d. Talk about your Apprenticeship Program
- Recreation Centers
 - a. Are you tracking by age group the usage in Recreation Centers? What data do you have available for same?
 - b. How do you determine the programs for each recreation center?
- Raven Games – Park Usage
 - a. How much revenue is generated from Park usage during Raven Games? And where does the revenue go?
 - b. Beyond regular programming, are there any enhanced programming due to this incoming revenue?
 - c. Restoration of field(s) where parking is allowed – is of concern.
- Park Trails
 - a. Maintenance – is of concern.
 - b. Trails needs to be upkept properly!
 - c. Is there a clear system for maintenance?
 - d. The conditions of our park trails need to be remedied!
 - e. How does an employee(s) report a park trail may need repair(s) – what is the system/processes for same?
 - f. 311 Requests – Comment: park trails requests versus park maintenance requests, there needs to be separate 311 requests for each!
- Green Space
 - a. The importance of having green space and asked for a commitment moving forward.
- Park Pools – Bag Policy
 - a. Why can’t bags be bought into pools? Walk me through the safety threats of having bags at the pools.
- Lincoln Park
 - a. Assault incident at Lincoln Park – is of concern.

- b. Concern: Emergency communication with Baltimore Police Department when needed in our Parks across the city – Talk about this and the processes associated with same
- Illegal Dumping
 - a. Park Rangers are a part of the process – where are you with illegal dumping.
- New Library in Park Heights Community
 - a. Thank you for the additional space to accommodate the library!
 - i. (Sharing parking spaces with the new library)
- Youth Programs
 - a. Can you talk about other programs that are available other than sports programs?
- Playgrounds
 - a. Materials that can be used for playgrounds, talk about the new policy going into effect October 2024.
 - b. New Playgrounds Across the City
 - i. Are we budgeted for maintenance for the new playgrounds?
 - ii. Concern: timely repairs/maintenance to playgrounds
 - iii. Comment: a new line item is needed this year for same!

3. Hearing recessed.

Baltimore City Police Department (BPD)

1. Representatives from the BPD gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Officers
 - Officers sitting in patrol cars – is of concern!
 - Should Officers still be sitting in their patrol cars versus walking the neighborhoods?
 - Marine Unit
 - Concern: The need to have quick responses for the Unit when having emergency incidents – talk about this!
 - Talk about the Community Policing Plan
 - Concern: Officers’ indifferences
 - How do you record or handle a situation when an officer(s) is acting indifferent?
 - When someone reports bias how is it handled?
 - Training for Officers – additional training is needed; who performs the training?
 - Do you have a timeline for completing the Consent Decree? **Answer: Within the next two (2) years**
 - Quality of Life Crimes – is of concern.
 - Need to be more strategic in addressing quality of life crimes!
 - Fells Point Area
 - How many citations were issued within the last month in this area?
 - Concerned about underage drinking, drug dealing, etc.
 - There needs to be clear consequences for breaking laws!
 - Areas with Late Night Openings
 - Hope the records for approval of these openings are kept up!
 - Is there a plan for law enforcement in these areas?

- Caseloads
 - What is the caseload per each homicide detective?
 - What are you doing to get the average caseload down?
 - What plans do you have to get the staff needed to get the clearance rate down?
Talk about this.
- Citation Docket
 - Why don't you track the locations of where citations are issued?
 - Concern – Lack of tracking
 - Can you consider and/or explore tracking same?
 - Concern – No listing on citations for age or demographic – is of concern.
 - Would like a sample of what data is sent to the State's Attorney's Office
 - Have you digitalized the citation for tracking and verifying data on it?
 - 58 citations were kicked back due to insufficient data, was an analysis done on these citations?
 - Is there a timeline for better performance of the process?
 - Requested by Councilmember Conway: Provide an update on the process within the next 30 days.
- Drug Dealings
 - What should an officer do when he/she sees drugs deals?
 - We are not seeing any action by officers for same!
 - Would like to see more enforcement!
- Diversity
 - What are you doing to promote females/women in the department?
 - Comments regarding the importance of diversity within department.
- Number of Officers on Post – is of concern.
- Civilian Positions
 - Comments regarding hiring retirees in civilian positions
- Deliveries – Loading/Unloading during Night or Day
 - When does an officer intervene if or when too much noise occurs?
- Vacation Days
 - Vacation days taken away for negative behavior; how does this work?
 - And is this practice done by any other jurisdictions? **Answer: Yes**
- Police Accountability Board
 - Cases being submitted at the last time – is of concern – what is happening here?
 - The Board should not have to deal with last minute cases!
 - Concern – not meeting timeline for submitting date to Board.
 - Need to improve the communication flow.
- Staffing Shortages
 - What are you doing to compensate for the shortages across all districts? Such as balancing workloads and staffing enhancements?
- Vacancies and Recruitment
 - What is the plan and is the plan different from prior years?
- Police Department – comments regarding getting local control back.
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- Gated Communities and 911 Calls
 - Are the responses to these communities the same as other areas?
 - Suggestion: Officers should attend their community association meetings.
- Performance Measures

- Who makes the decision for performance measures?
 - Any thought on how to make performance measures more meaningful?
 - Concern: it takes 7 ½ minutes on average for an officer to arrive at a scene!
- Warnings versus Issuing a Citation
 - How do you track warnings?
- Behavioral Health Program
 - Where are you with the Program?
 - Are you expanding the program?
 - Is a report forthcoming?
- Victim – Follow-up
 - Lack of follow-up to victims – is of concern.
 - What messaging are you sending out to mid-management regarding follow-up for victims? Such as hit and run case?
 - There must be clear and timely follow-up(s).
- Cadets – Public Safety Apprenticeship Program
 - What is the age requirement?
 - What is the frequency of contact with those interested in the program but is under 18 years old?
 - Would it be reasonable to put in place a system to reach out to them?
 - Is there a report on the contacts with them?
 - How many enrolled and how many completed the program? **Answer: 150 enrolled and 6 hired.**
- New Division – Juvenile Crimes
 - Talk more about this division,
 - Diversion Program – with this be a part of the new division?
 - Hope we will be able to reach out to your office when needed.
- Overtime
 - What is the status for correcting/implementing recommendations associated with the legislative audit for overtime?
- School Police
 - Concerned about the School Police
 - Lack of basic training
 - Would like to work with the Police Department to discuss concerns.
 - Would like a commitment from the Department to assist with training the School Police

3. Hearing Recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes **No**

Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation

1. Councilmember Ramos - Send the committee a chart of the differences and similarities between the proposed conservation districts, local historic districts, national register district

Department of Planning

2. Councilmember Schleifer - Provide a list of grants that Planning administers by agency, and whether any included Main Streets

3. Councilmember Conway - Coordinate with CAO for climate plan (study) and timeline complete of climate study; according to Conway CAO committed to this
4. Councilmember Conway - Update on coordination between DHCD and DOP on Cool Roofs education program
5. Councilmember Ramos & Councilmember Conway - Middle Neighborhoods ARPA-related line item spends and food policy commission
6. Councilmember Ramos - Report on the costs of mowing vacant lots via the work of the Clean Corps program for FY2024 and ongoing.
7. Councilmember Conway - Total metrics on all 3 plans (2012 Climate Action Plan, 2024 Climate Action Plan, and 2019 Sustainability Plan) and percentage completed.

Department of Recreation and Parks

8. Councilmember Conway - Request timelines and stats on backlogs related to tree maintenance and stump removals
9. Councilmember Ramos - Documented process of how citizens can request new tree plantings and what is asked of them (what kind of tree); and work with BCIT/BCRP to use 311 for these requests
10. Councilmember Ramos - Update on installing pillars in Wyman Park and procurement timelines for bid and award
11. Chairman Costello - How much revenue was generated from Ravens game parking at Solo Gibbs last year
12. Councilmember Dorsey - Per CAO, by 6/14, respond to CM Dorsey with a written update on trail maintenance SRs at Leakin Park and Herring Run and to begin looking into updating 311 SRs to add a Trail Maintenance request delineating paved vs unpaved trails (currently all under Park Maintenance requests)
13. Councilmember Burnett - Status update on construction project at Mary Rodman Rec Center
14. Councilmember Ramos - Request for contact information for Park Rangers and Security management broken down by district.
15. Councilmember Conway - Add performance measures in Service 653 to capture additional metrics related to internal permit processes and/or special events

Baltimore City Police Department

16. Councilmember Burnett - Follow up on go-live date for Arson Registry
17. Councilmember Conway - Chart on Consent Decree implementation and progress for each paragraph
18. Councilmember Cohen - Provide the number of citations issued in Fells Point and Graceland Park
19. Councilmember Burnett - Provide a written memo for what demographic information is provided on the citation by BPD- (Burnett's email: provide a full breakdown of citation and Warnings (if data is available) issued by police precinct & post, including what the citation was for, the neighborhood citation was given in, race - explicitly white, black, Latino, Asian, other or not identified, and age)
20. Councilmember Burnett - Provide the policy on what constitutes a warning within BPD protocol; is it a verbal, or paper warning, etc.
21. Chairman Costello - Provide a copy of the Axon report that gets transmitted from BPD to SAO with redactions as approved by Legal Counsel
22. Councilmember Conway - Recommendations related to evaluation/expansion of 911 diversion program- due in one month/July
23. Councilmember Torrence - Request a written summary of how BPD partners with other agencies on contracts to save money

24. Councilmember Conway - Provide In writing, updates to the implementation of recommendations related to overtime audit
 25. Councilmember Torrence - BPD to confirm in writing whether there was a donation or transaction of Axon body-worn cameras to BCPSS school police, and confirm two trainings provided to BCPSS schools police on cameras
 26. Councilmember Conway - Update 30 days after the implementation of the citation training app
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Niya N. Garrett

Niya N. Garrett, Committee Staff

Date: July 9, 2024

Cc: Bill File

OCS Chrono File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill - Ordinance of Estimate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 – Day Seven	Bill #: 24-0521
Budget Hearings	
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric Costello
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024	Time: Beginning 9AM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	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	✓	✓	✓	✓
JENNY	MORGAN	BCRP				
JOAN	GREEN	BCRP				
AJENNA	GREEN	BCRP				
KAREN	JORDAN	BCRP				
RICHARD	BROWN	BCRP				

*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

Ways and Means

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

9:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2335 910 0857, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=m873230b7b7239a5d2f030c1e23b975ce](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m873230b7b7239a5d2f030c1e23b975ce)

**24-0521 - Ordinance of Estimates - FY 25 (Budget Agency Hearings - See attached
scheduled for additional details)**

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

- Present** 5 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Sharon Green Middleton, and
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
- Absent** 2 - Danielle N. McCray, and Robert Stokes Sr.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025
For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by
each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital
projects during the Fiscal 2025 year.

Hearing is recessed; will be reconvened on June 6

Day Seven (7) - Budget Hearings

Department of Planning,
Committee on Historical and Architectural Preservation,
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks,
Baltimore Police Department

ADJOURNMENT