



HEARING NOTES

City Council Resolution: 22-0095

The Baltimore City Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - Baltimore Together:
A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

Time (Beginning): 2:00 PM

Time (Ending): 2:40 PM

Location: Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 28

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey Antonio Glover Odette Ramos Robert Stokes

Bill Synopsis in the file? yes no n/a

Attendance sheet in the file? yes no n/a

Agency reports read? yes no n/a

Video or audio-digitally recorded? yes no n/a

Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? yes no n/a

Evidence of notification to property owners? yes no n/a

Final vote taken at this hearing? yes no n/a

Motioned by:.....Councilmember

Seconded by:.....Councilmember

Final Vote:.....

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Kimberly Clark, Executive Vice President, Baltimore Development Corporation
- Pedro Aponte, Department of Finance

- Colin Tarbert, Baltimore Development Corporation
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Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Sharon Green Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record.
 2. Kimberly Clark provided information about the Baltimore Together report, which provides an overview of the City's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The report is developed every five years. The report and along with an application is submitted to the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) so that City entities can apply for grant funding. Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) uses the report as a guide for making sure the goals of entities applying for EDA funding are aligned with the goals of Baltimore Together. Applications that entities forward to EDA are not controlled by BDC. Those applications are, however, reviewed by BDC to ensure alignment with the Baltimore Together strategy.
 3. Councilmember Dorsey asked whether adoption of the Baltimore Together report is for a legal purpose. Kim Clark explained that the EDA, requires a resolution of support from jurisdictions submitting applications for participation in the CEDS program. The report will become part of the application. BDC spent two years (through two City administrations) compiling the Baltimore Together report. The final report has been shared with all councilmembers. City Council Resolution 22-0095 was introduced to assess the City Council's support of the Baltimore Together report. If approved, the resolution will be part of the application.
 4. The committee discussed: the process for creating a comprehensive economic development strategy; what is included in the Baltimore Together report; use of traditional principles for addressing housing issues in the City; the role of BDC in implementing Baltimore Together; creation of a position within BDC to oversee implementation of Baltimore Together; sub-strategies outlined in Appendix 7 of the report that will be the initial focus for the new coordinator; investments in communities that have been traditionally ignored; investment and development of certain neighborhoods; the City's Comprehensive Master Plan; as well as certain geographic areas being left out of plans for development to occur along certain commercial corridors (page 59).
 5. Colin Tarbert provided more detail about CEDS. The report is used to organize Baltimore's economic development vision. The report uses the Department of Housing and Community Development's framework plan for identifying locations for neighborhood investments. Concern was expressed about the efficiency and success of DHCD's current framework. South Baltimore Gateway was added to DHCD's plan, but does not show in the Baltimore Together plan. The report mainly focuses on economic development and will be adjusted annually.
 6. Agency representatives provided agency reports.
 7. The hearing was opened for public testimony. No one testified.
 8. The hearing was recessed.
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Further Study

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

Yes No

The committee would like Baltimore Development Corporation to provide a full presentation.
The hearing was recessed.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair
John Bullock:
Mark Conway:
Ryan Dorsey:
Antonio Glover:.....
Odette Ramos:
Robert Stokes:.....

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: March 23, 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File