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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Health, Environment, and Technology (HET) Committee is to study, review, and recommend policies to improve overall public health and welfare, achieve environmental justice and sustainability, and promote the adoption of, and equitable access to, technology to better meet the needs of all City residents.

**The Honorable Danielle McCray  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023  
10:01 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*Council Resolution 21-0052R*

**Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Employees - Safe Transition to  
Work After COVID-19**

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
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Danielle McCray  
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Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

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Danielle McCray  
Phylicia Porter  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)**

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All City Council Members  
*Staff: Larry Greene (410-396-7215)*

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James Torrence  
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*Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)*

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Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)*

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Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



## SYNOPSIS

**Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology**

**City Council Resolution: 21-0052R**

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**Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Employees - Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember McCray, et al

**Introduced:** July 19, 2021

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of the Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments.

**Effective:** Upon enactment

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### AGENCY REPORTS

Department of General Services	No Position
Department of Health	No Position
Department of Human Resources	Defers to RSOC
Mayor's Office of Emergency Management	No Position
City Administrator	Comments
City Solicitor	None as of writing

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## **ANALYSIS**

The committee held a hearing on **August 18, 2022**, and a work session on **January 12, 2022**.

The resolution invites various City officials and agencies to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments.

Baltimore City is in the process of restoring 100 percent of resident-facing services, which will require some City employees to return to work onsite. The Restoration of Services Oversight Committee (RSOC) is leading the process and is charged with reviewing agency plans for restoring services, including procedures for staff and resident safety and a staff notification process. It is currently unclear when the City will begin transitioning other employees back to onsite work.

The committee will reconvene on **October 11, 2023**. Attached are notes from the **January 12<sup>th</sup> work session**.

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** City Administrator's Memorandum dated June 4, 2021, Reporting Agencies, Resolution 21-0052R

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*Deontre Hayes*

Deontre L. Hayes, Committee Staff

Date: October 6, 2023

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File



WORK SESSION NOTES

Resolution: 21-0052R

Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Employees - Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: January 12, 2022

Time (Beginning): 11:00 AM

Time (Ending): 12:00 PM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 50 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey Phylicia Porter James Torrence

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [ ] YES [ ] NO [X] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [ ] NO [ ] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [ ] YES [ ] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [ ] YES [ ] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [ ] YES [X] NO [ ] N/A
Motioned by:
Seconded by:
Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Christopher Shorter, City Administrator
Chichi Nyagah-Nash, Department of General Services
Sebastiana Gianci, City Safety Czar
Quinton Herbert, Department of Human Resources

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**Major Issues Discussed**

1. Chairwoman McCray called the work session to order and discussed the goals for the work session.
2. City Administrator Shorter discussed the impacts of the Omicron variant on City services and reopening plans.
3. Chichi Nyagah-Nash and Sebastiana Gianci presented on the Restoration of Services Oversight Committee’s current actions in response to the Omicron variant and progress in employee vaccinations and testing (presentation in file).
4. City officials responded to committee member questions.
5. Chairwoman McCray explained that the Committee will likely meet again on the resolution in the coming months and recessed the work session.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

**Yes**     **No**

**If yes, describe.**

The Committee will likely meet again in the coming months to keep the City Council, employees, and residents informed on this issue.

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**Committee Vote:**

D. McCray: .....  
J. Bullock: .....  
M. Conway: .....  
R. Dorsey: .....  
P. Porter: .....  
J. Torrence: .....  
I. Schleifer: .....

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Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff


Date: January 13, 2022

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File

# **Council Resolution: 21-0052R**

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**See attached**

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject/ Position:	21-0052R – Informational Hearing - Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19  <b>NO POSITION</b>		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

August 11, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0052R, entitled, “Informational Hearing - Safe Return Transition to Work After COVID-19.” This resolution calls upon “the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments.”

BCHD takes **no position** on Council Bill #21-0025R and defers to the Baltimore City Restoration of Services Oversight Committee.





## Memorandum

Date: August 13, 2021

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Room 400 City Hall  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Restoration of Services Oversight Committee

Re: **City Council Bill 21-0052R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Employees  
– Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19**

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The Restoration of Services Oversight Committee (RSOC) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0052R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Employees – Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19. The purpose of this bill is for inviting the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of the Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments.

On behalf of the Chief Administrator's Office, RSOC welcomes the opportunity to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments. RSOC's Oversight team is comprised of leadership from the Department of Human Resources, the Department of General Services, the Office of the Labor Commissioner, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Office of Emergency Management, the Mayor's Office of Performance & Innovation and the Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology. RSOC is responsible for advising the Mayor's Senior Leadership Team and guiding City Agencies through the process of restoring their services safely to City residents. Safety is our highest priority and includes the safety and health of our employees, their families, and the residents of Baltimore.

cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*



**Baltimore City Office of  
Emergency Management**  
501 N. Calvert St  
Baltimore, Maryland 21278  
(410) 396-6188

Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor  
City of Baltimore

Chief Charles Svehla  
Emergency Manager  
Office of Emergency Management

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**To:** Honorable President Mosby, and Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400 City Hall

**From:** Chief James Wallace, Acting Director, Office of Emergency Management  
501 N. Calvert St - Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

**Date:** August 12, 2021

**RE:** Council Bill 21-0052R—Resolution—Baltimore City Employees—Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19

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The Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the OEM Deputy Director (Finance & Admin), and the City Safety Czar have reviewed Council Bill #21-0052R, entitled, "Informational Hearing - Safe Return Transition to Work After COVID-19." This resolution calls upon "the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical work environments."

OEM takes **no position** on Council Bill #21-0025R and defers to the Baltimore City Restoration of Services Oversight Committee.

Thank you for your support, time, and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Wallace", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Chief James Wallace  
Acting Director, City of Baltimore Office of Emergency Management

JW/jlm

**Cc:** Honorable Mayor, Brandon M. Scott  
Chief Administrative Officer, Christopher J. Shorter  
Chief of Staff, Michael Huber  
Deputy Mayor, Public Safety, Sunny Schnitzer  
Deputy City Administrator, Daniel Ramos  
Fire Chief, Niles R. Ford  
Acting Emergency Manager, Chief Charles Svehla

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

QUINTON M. HERBERT, JD  
Director and Chief Human Capital Officer  
7 E. Redwood Street, 17th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

August 13, 2021

The Honorable City Council President, Nick Mosby  
and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Room 409  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**Re: City Council Bill 21-0052R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore City  
Employees - Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19**

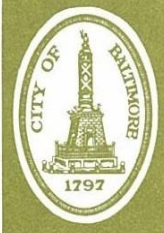
Dear President and City Council Members,

The Department of Human Resources defers to the bill response of the Restoration of Services Oversight Committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Quinton M. H".

Quinton M. Herbert, J.D.

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Chichi Nyagah-Nash, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>Report on City Council Bill 21-0052R</b>		

DATE: January 10, 2022

**TO** The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Marguerite Currin, Staff, Health Committee  
City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0052R- Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Employees – Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Department of General Services (DGS) has been actively engaged in the activities of mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in the workplace and keeping our employees in, and visitors to, City buildings safe and healthy.

DGS has participated in the creation of the Restoration of Services Oversight Committee (RSOC) whose role is to oversee and manage the activities related to the City’s coordinated efforts to keep the workplace safe both within services that never ceased operations at the beginning of the pandemic, as well as those seeking to restore discontinued operations. The related activities undertaken by DGS, under the auspices of the RSOC and in adherence to The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Baltimore City Health Department and The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) requirements and guidelines, are numerous.

As co-lead (along with the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management) of the RSOC’s workstream for Facilities, Equipment and Logistics, DGS has been at the forefront of the City’s engineered changes (e.g. installation of plexiglass, reconfiguration of work spaces to allow for distancing, etc.) required in City buildings.

**DGS takes no position on Council Bill #21-0052R and defers to RSOC’s response.** DGS will be joining other member agencies represented within the RSOC in providing a joint briefing and presentation to this Committee on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We welcome the opportunity to stand in front of you and provide additional details as you may require.

  
Chichi Nyagah-Nash

Director

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0052R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers McCray, Bullock, Porter, Burnett, Stokes, Torrence, Ramos,  
Glover, Cohen, Middleton, Conway

Introduced and read first time: July 19, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Health Department, City Administrator,  
Office of Emergency Management, Department of Human Resources, Department of General  
Services, Housing Authority

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Employees – Safe Transition to  
Work After COVID-19**

FOR the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department of  
Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director  
of the Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of Emergency  
Management, and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss  
the plans and strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back  
to safe physical work environments.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental, physical,  
and financial health of Baltimore City employees;

**WHEREAS**, there have been 53,212 total cases of COVID-19 in the City of Baltimore;

**WHEREAS**, there have been 1,103 confirmed deaths, and 41 probable deaths resulting from  
exposure to COVID-19 in the City of Baltimore;

**WHEREAS**, 268,853 Baltimore City residents ages 12 and older (50.9% of that population)  
have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Baltimore City has allowed full capacity indoor and outdoor dining and indoor  
and outdoor recreation, and has allowed houses of worship, retail establishments, gyms, and  
casinos to operate at full capacity as of May 15th of 2021;

**WHEREAS**, Baltimore City lifted its mask mandate on July 1st of 2021 in congruency with  
Maryland Governor Larry Hogan’s conclusion of the State of Emergency and termination of all  
emergency mandates and restrictions;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

**Council Bill 21-0051R**

1       **WHEREAS**, it is under the discretion of private business owners to continue mandating masks  
2 within their indoor and outdoor facilities;

3       **WHEREAS**, the health and safety of Baltimore City employees is of paramount concern to the  
4 City, and the City must develop and implement workplace safety and health guidelines to reduce  
5 employees' fear and provide for a safe transition back into the physical work environment; and

6       **WHEREAS**, just as returning to in-person learning is vital for student performance and mental  
7 and emotional health, adults returning to the workplace will experience reduced feelings of  
8 isolation, stagnation, and depression related to excessive screen time.

9       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
10 Baltimore City Council invites the Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Department  
11 of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director  
12 of the Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management,  
13 and the Baltimore City Safety Czar to appear before the City Council to discuss the plans and  
14 strategies that are being developed to transition Baltimore City employees back to safe physical  
15 work environments.

16       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
17 City Administrator, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of  
18 the Baltimore City Health Department, the Director of the Department of General Services, the  
19 Director of the Office of Emergency Management, the Baltimore City Safety Czar, and the  
20 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.