

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Worksession: 21-0028R

Informational Hearing - Baltimore's Plan for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness and Residing in Hotels during the Pandemic

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: January 11, 2022

Time (Beginning): 3:04 PM

Time (Ending): 4:35 PM

Location: Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: ~50

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

- Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Agency reports read? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Video 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? [X] yes [] no [] n/a

Motioned by: Councilmember Ryan Dorsey
Seconded by: Councilmember Odette Ramos
Final Vote: Favorable/Amendment

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Councilmember Odette Ramos

- Ms. Faith Leach, Office of the Mayor
- Mr. William Welles, Deputy Commissioner, Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services
- Ms. Irene Agustin, Director, Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services
- Mr. Mark Council, Lead Organizer, Housing Our Neighbors
- Ms. Alease Sykes, Housing Our Neighbors

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives, and read the bill into the record.
2. Councilmember Ramos commented that the focus of the work session is to assess the City’s current status on assisting the homeless. She also inquired about provisions for permanent housing.
3. Ms. Faith Leach updated the committee about recent expenditures for the homeless.
4. Mr. William Welles and Ms. Irene Agustin presented a PowerPoint presentation updating the committee on the City’s Covid-19 Response; Outreach and Encampments; Shelter Hotels; and the Housing First Program. Hotel shelter is covered by COVID funding. The City is being reimbursed for services above and beyond what would normally be provided.
5. Mr. Mark Council testified and explained the purpose of Housing Our Neighbors. He commented that hotel shelters are doing a good job. All rooms should be utilized, however, as the rooms are prepaid by FEMA. Some people who call the shelter hotline are being told to seek shelter at Code Blue shelters, but it is very difficult to remain at a 6 foot distance.
6. Ms. Alease Sykes testified about the quality and conditions of food service at shelters. She also testified that cases should be efficiently managed. She indicated that certain residents have been discharged from shelters with no additional assistance or guidance.
7. The hearing was adjourned.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair:..... Yea
 John Bullock: Yea
 Mark Conway: Absent
 Ryan Dorsey: Yea

Antonio Glover:..... Absent
Odette Ramos: Yea
Robert Stokes:..... Absent

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

Date: January 12, 2022