



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 24-0599

Zoning - Conditional Use - Crematorium

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Chairman Eric Costello

Hearing Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Time (Beginning): 10:25 AM
Time (Ending): 11:25 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 10 virtually
Approximately 30 in-person

Committee Members in Attendance:
Robert Stokes, Sr. Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input 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 at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Victor March Sr.	Neil Lanzi
Erich March	Shaiyel Seltzer
Lisa Polyak	Cindy Camp
Kaye Gooch	Ty'lor Schnella, Council Liaison
Don Blackwell	
Brandon Wylie	

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Conway, sponsor of the bill, gave opening remarks on the purpose and intent of the bill.
2. Chairman Costello went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
3. Councilmember McCray asked about the difference between an incinerator and a crematorium. Councilmember Conway noted that a crematorium is an incinerator, but some differences exist.
4. Councilmember McCray asked if there was an analysis done on the financial impact this would have on businesses. Councilmember Conway noted there was not a full economic analysis on this.
5. Councilmember Stokes asked about the impact on funeral homes with this bill, and the financial impact on people in the city seeking affordable cremation and funeral services.
6. Councilmember Stokes asked about families without insurance who may experience price hikes due to funeral homes having off-site crematoriums. Councilmember Conway noted that the need will continue to be met.
7. Nine people signed up to testify. The following were some of the topics discussed:
 - Residents' concerns with toxic material in the air after cremation services
 - Crematoriums sending out unrecognizable emissions.
 - Environmental justice
 - Representatives for funeral homes noted that the human body is 80% water and foreign objects in the body are not burned, but manually disposed of.
 - Representatives for funeral homes noted the financial impact on local funeral homes, which may cause loss of business.
 - Representatives for funeral homes noted there are studies noting that there are no negative impacts on crematorium emissions.
 - Regulations are needed
 - This bill will disproportionately impact Black funeral homes in the city
8. Councilmember Dorsey asked if there are local funeral homes that have off-site crematoriums or third-party crematorium services. Mr. March, who signed up to testify, noted that Marsh's Funeral Home is the only one that maintains off-site crematoriums.
9. Councilmember Conway gave closing remarks.
10. No quorum. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Niya. Garrett, Committee Staff

Date: November 20, 2024

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Ways and Means

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

10:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2332 195 4623, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m790b508208384804a9347aab21d86c62)
MTID=m790b508208384804a9347aab21d86c62

24-0599

Rescheduled from 10-29-24

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, and Robert Stokes Sr.

Excused 1 - Sharon Green Middleton

Absent 2 - Kristerfer Burnett, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning - Conditional Use - Crematorium

For the purpose of creating a stand-alone use in the Zoning Code for crematoriums; amending certain related definitions; revising certain zoning tables to include the use "crematorium"; making conforming changes; providing for a special effective date; and generally related to creating the stand-alone use "crematorium" in the Zoning Code.

Hearing called to recess due to no quorum.

ADJOURNMENT