



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: Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Day three (3)

Sheriff's Department

Time (Beginning): 9:15 AM
Time (Ending): 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 55 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

State's Attorney's Office

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:50 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 75 in-person
Approximately 15 virtually

Office of Emergency Management

Time (Beginning): 1:10 PM
Time (Ending): 1:35 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Baltimore City Fire Department

Time (Beginning): 2:10 PM
Time (Ending): 3:47 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 30 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Department of Housing & Community Development

Time (Beginning): 6:30 PM

Time (Ending): 10:20 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 45 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance: Day Three

Eric T. Costello Robert Stokes, Sr. Danielle McCray
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer Ryan Dorsey
Sharon 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 Three

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Sam Cogen, Sheriff’s Department
 - Nicholas Blendy, Sheriff’s Department
 - Ivan Bates, State’s Attorney’s Office
 - James Wallace – Fire Chief
 - Joey Henderson – Director of Emergency Services.
 - Mamy Beth Leisure -Chief of Staff
 - Shawn Eames – Deputy Chief
 - James Fisher – Fiscal Officer
 - Alice Kennedy, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Jason Hessler, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Nicole Hart, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Kate Edwards, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Eric Booker, Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Faith Leach, Chief Administrative Officer
-

Major Issues Discussed

Sheriff’s Department

1. A representative from the Sheriff’s Office gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). He also talked about the following matters and/or concerns:

- Recent murder of Judge – comments
 - Concerned about Courthouse Security
 - Need more funding to increase the security
 - Letter was submitted to the Mayor and City Council regarding the need for additional funding for security at the Courthouse(s)
 - Pay Disparity
 - The Sheriff’s pay when compared to Police Officers’ salary – is of concern
 - More funding is needed for body worn cameras!
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
- Increased Security Funding
 - Do you have an estimated cost for same?
 - What is the gap you want to close for court security? Such as protecting Judges?
 - Per Councilmember Stokes, he will fight for the Sheriffs to get equitable pay!
 - Talk about the duties of the deputy sheriff and how they compare to police officers.
 - Social Workers – How many do you have and how many do you need?
 - Traffic Enforcement
 - How are you coordinating enforcement with Baltimore City Police Department?
 - 911 Calls
 - Is your department deploying the same as the Baltimore City Police Department?
 - What percent of 911 calls does your department respond to?
 - Community Engagement
 - Do you have any community engagement?
 - What type of calls do you receive?
 - Are there any reports distributed by your Department to citizens regarding how you address crime?
 - How many vacancies do you have? Please provide.
 - Performance Matrixes
 - During the next budget cycle; FY2026, list similar duties as those of the Baltimore City Police

3. **Hearing recessed.**

State’s Attorney’s Office

1. A representative from the State’s Attorney’s Office gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). He also talked about the following matters, topics and/or concerns:
 - Is focusing on car theft crimes (to create a task force same)
 - Theft, carjacking and robberies needs to be addressed to increase the quality of life in city!
 - Only have three (3) vacancies:
 - Been able to retain employees!
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Drug Addiction
 - Do you have a program to divert same? **Answer: Yes**
 - Talk about the Program and do you have any data showing outcomes of the program?
 - Citation Docket
 - Talk more about the development of this docket

- When will the report for citation docket be available? **Answer: Hopefully be the end of the year.**
- Citation Docket Report – is of concern
 - Needs to be transparent and complete as possible
 - Geographic location (information) is missing
 - More reporting is needed (more information)
 - Importance of accurate information
 - Need a clear picture of what is happening and/or being issued!
 - Who designed the physical citation docket? **Answer: the judiciary system**
 - Where are you with your policies and procedures for this?
 - How many subpoenas have you issued since the first of this year?
 - 723 warnings given in 2023 in lieu of citations (was disclosed at a public safety committee hearing)
 - Was demographic a part of those warnings (was this tracked)?
 - Concern: Equity regarding who gets warnings vs. who gets a citation(s).....because of the Consent Decree, we have to get the data, information, and etc. right!
 - Comments/questions regarding what data is and is not available
- 311 Calls
 - Are you collaborating with the service workflow associated with 311 calls?
- Bench Warrants
 - How many do you have outstanding? **Answer: Forty (40)**
 - Can the Council receive a breakdown of those warrants?
- Have Johns Hopkins reached out to your office for training?
- Juvenile Prosecution
 - Once a juvenile reaches the system what assistance is available for families and/or what is the process for going through the system?
- Specialty Diversion Program
 - The chart shows 1,100 as being served, can the Council get a breakdown for those 1,100?
- Mental Health Court
 - What happens to an individual(s) after going to mental health court?
- Victim Services/Witness Program
 - How do you think you are doing in this area?
 - How do you separate duties? Provide a breakdown of duties between the different agencies
- Human Trafficking
 - Talk about where your office stands with human trafficking prosecution
- Body Camera Review
 - Talk about this division
 - How are the reviews going? Reviewing the footage?

3. Hearing Recessed.

Office of Emergency Management

1. A representative from the Office of Emergency Management 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:

- Key Bridge Collapse
 - Chief Wallace stated that Director Henderson was doing an outstanding job, particularly on the Key Bridge Collapse.
- 2024 storm season
 - The Office is now transitioning its attention to the upcoming storm season beginning June 1st which the National Weather Service predicts will be extremely active.
- Staffing
 - Councilmember Ramos expressed concern about the removal of funding for several positions. The Department of Finance assured her that this reallocation of state Funds and the positions were intact.

3. Hearing Recessed.

Baltimore City Fire Department

1. A representative from the Baltimore City Fire Department 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:
 - Fentanyl Crisis
 - Chief Wallace introduced his Command Staff and stated he was very proud of how the department has performed during the Fentanyl crisis.
 - Chief Wallace explained that the Department is accelerating training for first responders so they will recognize the signs of Fentanyl poisoning.
 - Staffing
 - Councilmember Dorsey inquired about the number of BCFD personnel who have take-home vehicles. Chief Wallace said there were 32 but could not give a breakdown as to how many of those employees lived outside of the City.
 - A new position is being created for a permit reviewer starting January 1, 2025 when the City creates a stop permit process.
 - Fire Investigations
 - Councilmember Porter inquired as to why the Fire Investigation unit was only able to determine the cause of fire in 65% of cases. Chief Wallace explained that in cases where the structure is deemed unsafe no one including investigators is allowed to enter the structure. This inhibits the chance of determining the cause.

3. Hearing Recessed.

Department of Housing & Community Development

1. A representative from the Department of Housing & Community Development 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:
 - Staffing
 - No equity-specific staff to support the Equity Officer, but the position is supported.
 - Recently put together an internal equity survey, including a salary study
 - Vacancies
 - Inspector positions
 - Difficulties in hiring
 - Inspections

- Concerns about the criminal element of inspections
- Safety-first training is mandatory
- 74 houses inspected through May. Last year, they only inspected 74 houses all year.
- Code Enforcement
 - More holistic approach to code enforcement
 - Maximizing resources
- Group/Transitional Homes
 - Vice President Middleton questioned the agency about their role in licensing groups or transitional homes. There are issues with these types of housing changing the make-up of the communities they're in and neglect issues.
 - DHCD noted that these types of homes are protected by civil rights and cannot just shut them down.
 - Staff working to address specific case-by-case issues, but have to be mindful of the law
- Illegal Dumping
 - Impacted by personnel changes and vacancies
- Cool Roofs
 - DHCD are working on education component of ordinance
- Programs/Plans for access to homeownership and generational wealth
- Commercial properties
 - Councilmember Porter asked about the inspections for these types of properties.
 - Commercial inspections are the same as residential inspections
- Fine Collections
- Update on Fixed Price Program
 - 77 out of 1,207 complete applications were from Baltimore. Only 3 out of 77 applications were processed.
- Surplus Schools
- Squatters

3. Hearing Recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

- **State's Attorney's Office**

1. Councilman Conway - Share data with Council on the drug diversion program, including the number of individuals, and outcomes of those in drug treatment programs.
2. Councilwoman Ramos - Share data on the number on citations issued via police district, and their current status
3. Councilwoman Porter - Provide a workflow between 311 and the citation dockets- Which 311 calls led to citations?
4. Councilman Burnett - Provide a breakdown of which agencies are issuing the citations, and the infractions that led to the citations
5. Councilwoman Porter - Provide a breakdown of the # of cases by specialty courts (veteran's treatment court, adult recovery court, mental health court, etc.)
6. Councilman Conway - Provide a breakdown of responsibilities or workflow in Victim Services between the State's Attorney, BPD, and MONSE

- **Fire Department**

7. Councilman Conway - Request for a breakdown on how many calls the department fields/receives for opioid-related issues, and how much time is spent on these calls.
8. Councilwoman Porter - Provide a review of Codex building alignment and demolition schedules
9. Councilman Conway - Verify and provide a one-page report on what was requested for FY24 & FY25 Battalion Techs for Stricker St. Fire, due EOB 6/6/24
10. Councilwoman Ramos - Provide a report of the number of injuries the firefighters are dealing with in abandoned properties for FY 23 Q3 & Q4, and FY 24 Q1.
11. Councilman Dorsey - Provide an accounting for all mileage traveled for take-home vehicles, separated by emergency and non-emergent calls
12. Councilwoman Ramos - Provide an updated list of all codex properties and provide updated report to the Council quarterly.
13. Councilwoman Ramos - Provide the # of bilingual/Spanish speaking 911 operators, and other languages being used

- **Department of Housing and Community Development**

14. Councilman Dorsey - Provide plan on "right-to-counsel" metrics for success to meet State and City law.
15. Councilwoman Ramos - How is the \$30 million from Project CORE going to be deployed and what part is State and what will be City deploy? To be provided within two (2) weeks
16. Councilwoman Ramos -What is the current capacity for Acquisition/Disposition, what does the re-organization of this service look like, and then what is the plan to scale up to address the vacancy crisis at scale? Separate into - In Rem lawyers/staff, other acquisition methods, disposition staff, planning and/or outreach
17. Councilman Torrence - Provide a comprehensive written plan outlining how the DHCD intends to expand its operational hours or employ additional staff (part or full-time) to cover late hours and weekends. To be submitted by August 1, 2024.
18. Chairman Costello - Request that the current City Solicitor provide an updated memo explaining what the City can/cannot do under existing federal/state law re unwelcomed and/or unwanted facilities in the community
19. Councilman Conway -Provide a plan for how you plan to educate the residents/communities about the policies about sustainability and provide a timeline by August 1st
20. Councilman Conway - Provide a plan and timeline on securing and recommendations on surplus schools by August 1st.
21. Councilman Torrence - What are the measures being taken to improve the Procurement process for contracts with roof replacements?
22. Councilwoman Ramos -For Service 749: provide % of properties sold and provide the # that this percentage is based off, within the last 12 months that are under permit or have obtained U and O. To be provided in the next 2 weeks
23. Councilwoman Ramos -Please see the letter dated May 30, 2024 concerning items to be reported regarding the Fixed Price Policy.
24. Councilwoman Ramos -Please outline the accounting for the following ARPA items - \$7 million for HUBS and \$15 million for the Impact Investment Area
25. Councilwoman Ramos -Provide a process for lien release on water bills
26. Councilwoman Ramos - Regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund - provide the current amount of \$\$ in the Trust Fund, spending plan line items and funding allocations, any challenges for getting the funding out, amount of \$ earned last fiscal, and outcomes

27. Councilwoman Ramos -What is the capacity-building strategy to ensure that partners across the City (non-profit and small developers) can be able to rehab properties and work with communities on their community outcomes?
 28. Councilman Torrence – Request for a written plan that outlines how DHCD intends to expand its operational hours or employ additional staff to cover late hours and weekends.
 29. Councilman Torrence – Request information regarding the frequency of inspections conducted on the 2700 and 2800 blocks of West North Ave, rear of Lincoln Park, Wahaton, and Towanda Avenue, specifically that addresses citations or reports of illegal dumping. Additionally, a status report on the drone program, current status and timeline for functionality
 30. Councilman Torrence - Provide a written plan outlining the strategies for monitoring contract expirations and ensuring the continuity of essential services for constituents. What steps are being taken to ensure the continuity of essential services to prevent vulnerabilities among constituents due to expired contracts?
-

Niya N. Garrett

Niya N. Garrett, Committee Staff

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

Date: July 12, 2024



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill - Ordinance of Estimate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 – **Day Three**
Budget Hearings

Bill #: 24-0521

Committee: Ways and Means

Chair: Eric Costello

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024

Time: Beginning 9AM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

What is your position on this bill?

Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*

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 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| PATRICK | WILLIAMS | MCRP | | | | |
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*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

Thursday, May 30, 2024

9:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2335 104 1867, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m59021fde786f5ef2718f05cedf791827)
MTID=m59021fde786f5ef2718f05cedf791827

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

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, 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 called to recess; to reconvene on May 31, 2024

Day Three (3) - Budget Hearings

Sheriff,
State's Attorney's Office,
Baltimore City Fire Department,
Office of Emergency Management,
Department of Housing and Community Development,
Live Baltimore

ADJOURNMENT