



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight 21-0003

FY24 Budget Briefing

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Eric Costello

Hearing Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024
Time (Beginning): 1:13 PM
Time (Ending): 2:05 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 05 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:
Sharon Green Middleton Ryan Dorsey
Eric Costello Danielle McCray

- 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
- Hearing televised 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

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Laura Larsen, Budget Director, BBMR
Bob Cename, Deputy Finance Director, DOF
Chris Doherty, City Schools CFO
Alison Perkins-Cohen, Chief of Staff, BCPSS

Major Issues Discussed

1. Director Larsen gave a presentation on the FY24, Quarter 3 budget updates, including FY24 Capital Budget updates.
2. Regarding the \$10M in delayed purchase activity, Councilwoman McCray asked BBMR how much of those funds are estimated for the Health Department and the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services. BBMR noted each agency has \$4M or \$5M.
3. Councilwoman McCray requested a breakdown of the agencies, outside the Health Department and Homeless Services, that the late billings and contracts are with. Specifically, the Councilwoman would like it by amount and agency.
4. Regarding the purchase activity, Councilwoman Middleton asked if the new Office of Older Adults would impact this figure. BBMR noted that the Office is currently under the mayor's office, so it would not impact this figure.
5. Councilwoman Ramos asked a question about the real property tax under the city's revenues.
6. Councilwoman Ramos noted that she will not blame the city's deficit on taking residents out of tax sales. After an assessment, 60 of the homes taken out of tax sale had liens close to \$7M, but they are all vacant and misclassified with the city. The councilwoman noted that BBMR must properly classify the properties to obtain all the revenues.
7. BBMR noted they are seeing a decline in revenue collection and noted we must continue to understand how canceling tax sales impacts that. BBMR noted it's in the best interest of everyone to have a high collection rate for taxes.
8. Councilwoman Ramos noted that we should continue to focus on tax sale reform.
9. Councilman Cohen thanked Director Larsen and her team for putting together the presentation, and their work.
10. Councilman Cohen asked BBMR about the implications of the 'Renew Baltimore' ballot petition, which may end up on the ballot in November. BBMR noted they have been tracking this ballot due to the impact on revenues, and they published an analysis on their website of this ballot. BBMR's analysis noted that it is a bad idea, and Baltimore would lose almost a quarter of the city's revenues due to lowering the property tax rate over a short amount of time. To make up for the loss, the city would need to drastically cut city's services, specifically cutting large agencies. BBMR does not support this ballot.
11. CFO Doherty gave a presentation on the FY24 updates for Baltimore City Public Schools.
12. Councilwoman Middleton asked about what is 'Student Health Services'. The representatives from BCPSS noted that Student Health Services has historically been provided by the City, particularly with filling nursing positions and staffing health centers at schools.
13. Hearing called to recess.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

Please see the highlights above

Niya N. Garrett

Niya N. Garrett, Committee Staff

Date: May 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 - Draft

Ways and Means

Thursday, May 16, 2024

1:05 PM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2348 698 7348, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m22c9e97747fbf6e8872a45bed3109f13)
MTID=m22c9e97747fbf6e8872a45bed3109f13

Legislative Oversight: LO21-0003 (BBMR - Quarterly Budget Briefing FY 24, Capital Budget FY 24 Update, BCPSS FY 24 Quarterly Budget Briefing, BCPSS Budget Overview FY 25 - Operating Budget and Capital Budget - bill number 24-0523)

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, and Sharon Green Middleton

Absent 3 - Kristerfer Burnett, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Budget Briefing

For the purpose of calling on the Director of the Finance Department's Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) as well as the Director for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) to brief the City Council on how the City's actual finances and School's finances compare to its budget projections.

ADJOURNMENT