

For Internal Use Only



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MAY 05, 2022
10:01 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

VOTING SESSION ONLY

Council Resolution #21-0056R

Informational Hearing - From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair
John Bullock – Vice Chair
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Antonio Glover
Odette Ramos
Robert Stokes
Staff: Jennifer Coates

WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)

Eric Costello, Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray
Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Robert Stokes
Staff: Marguerite Currin

PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)

Mark Conway – Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Zeke Cohen
Erick Costello
Antonio Glover
Phylicia Porter
Odette Ramos
Staff: Samuel Johnson

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)

Robert Stokes – Chair
John Bullock
Zeke Cohen
Antonio Glover
Sharon Green Middleton
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence
Staff: Marguerite Currin

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)

Danielle McCray – Chair
John Bullock
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Staff: Matthew Peters

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Mark Conway
Erick Costello
Sharon Green Middleton
Odette Ramos
James Torrence
Staff: Richard Krummerich



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Education, Workforce and Youth

Council Resolution: 21-0056R

Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door

VOTING SESSION

Sponsor: Councilmember Ramos, et al

Introduced: August 16, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

Effective: On the date it is enacted.

Background

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, the committee held a hearing and approximately seventy-five (75) people attended. **Following are notes taken during the hearing.**

Major Speakers at the December 16th hearing

- Victor Tervalá, Law Department
- Kelleigh Eastman, Health Department
- Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
- Lynette Washington, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Holly Arnold, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Kwane Wyatt, Fund for Educational Excellence
- Roslyn Johnson, Speaker
- Cleopatra Martey, Speaker
- Danielle Sweeney, Speaker
- Matthew Rodriguez, Speaker

- Sadie Baker, Speaker
- Meredith Shaw, Speaker
- Madeleine Monson-Rosen, Speaker
- Jerome Howard, Mass Transit Administration (Police)

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Ramos, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. Some highlighted remarks/comments were:
 - Talked about a recent study produced by the Fund for Educational Excellence
 - Talked about why the Resolution was introduced; background associated with same
 - Concern: The number of vacant properties in the city
 - Goal is to keep our students safe and getting them to school on time
2. The representative from Baltimore City Public Schools gave a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, “From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door.” **A copy is in the bill file**
3. The representative from the Maryland Department of Transportation gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is in the bill file.**
4. The representative from the Fund for Educational Excellence also showed a PowerPoint Presentation.
5. The representative for the MTA Police talked about how their officers operate, their duties, responsibilities and processes.
6. Approximately seven (7) people gave public testimony; (students, parents, grandparents, teachers, etc.) to share some of their concerns and experiences.
7. The committee/council members asked questions, made comments and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Comment/Concern:
 - With many of our school closing some students were relocated
 - Concern: Keeping areas in city clean and safe for students who walk to school. Is there any discussion about keeping the areas clean and safe?
 - Inspire Program:
 - Talked about this program and asked, “Are you thinking about using some of the ARPA funding to help?”
 - Comment
 - Is glad to see our young people using their voice!
 - Concern(s):
 - Students being sexual harassed and getting to school late as well
 - Question:
 - Is it true that that the Mass Transit Administration can’t provide separate service for schools? **Answer: Yes, it’s true**
 - Transit Buses/Bus Routes:
 - Data was distributed for which buses comes near schools! I believe the data is incorrect! How can it be corrected?
8. Councilwoman Ramos gave closing remarks and stated, “An efficient, effective and safe transit system is needed.” Chairman Stokes thanked everyone for attending. **Hearing recessed.**

On Thursday, May 5, 2022, the committee will reconvene to vote on the Resolution.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Hearing notes taken during the December 16, 2022, committee hearing.

Marguerite M. Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
Analysis Date: May 2, 2022

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0056R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Ramos, Middleton, Cohen, Porter, Burnett

Introduced and read first time: August 16, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Health Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Transportation, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department
4 of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success
5 and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

6 **Recitals**

7 In Baltimore City Public Schools, approximately 29,000 students take MTA public transit to
8 school. Nearly three out of every four middle and high school students in our district rely on
9 buses, light rail, and subways regularly. MTA service is designed primarily with adult commuters
10 in mind, not the 18% of ridership who are children on their way to learn.

11 As such, our students face challenging obstacles on their way to and from school buildings.
12 Due to school choice, many young people take lengthy rides to schools that are far from their
13 neighborhoods, leading to increases in tardiness and absences which affect their education.
14 Students often avoid taking part in after-school extracurricular activities and employment
15 because of safety concerns on their evening trips home in the dark, with 32% of students saying
16 they do not feel safe on their way to and from school. Young women commonly experience
17 sexual harassment during their trips.

18 The City Council would like to determine the safety of our students on their commutes to
19 school, the equatability of public transit for our students, and the impact of public transit on
20 student attendance, academic outcomes, extracurricular activities, and employment.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 21-0056R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
2 Council requests representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health,
3 Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success and Office of
4 Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children's commute to school.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of Transportation, the Health Commissioner,
7 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.