



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0021

City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Chaired by: Councilwoman Phylisia Porter

Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM

Time (Ending): 12:20 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 75 In-Person
Approximately 30 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylisia Porter Ryan Dorsey
Mark Parker John Bullock

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
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 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.)

- Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Mayor's Office
- Alice Smith, Agency Representative
- Jennifer Harm, Agency Representative
- Sharon Green, Agency Representative
- Christine Ogbue, Health Department
- Chief James Matz, Fire Department
- Public Testimony/Speakers

- Darci Curwen-Garber, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Ricardo Burks, Health Care for the Homeless (Baltimore)
- Catalina Byrd, Speaker
- Vern McCormick, Speaker
- Candy Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Angelina C. Williams, Community Association
- Bakari Atiba, Charm City Care Connection
- Charlene Bees, Morrell Park
- Marguerite Lanaux, Office of the Public Defender
- Jodie Jackson, Morrell Park
- August Paige, Speaker

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. Some remarks were: "This hearing was a "long time" coming, I would like to see the end to "generation addiction." She also talked about some of the goals for moving forward with the different hearings already scheduled.
2. Public Testimony was allowed first (Approximately twelve [12] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:
 - Life as an addict and road to recovery
 - The affordable housing crisis
 - Homelessness
 - Increase in Mental Health issues
 - Cuts to Medicaid
 - Many organizations will fold!
 - Statistical data regarding the Opioid Crisis
 - Would like for similar programs to come together in collaboration to address this issue
 - The role of overdose prevention centers
 - More outreach is needed
 - Importance of meeting people where they are!
 - Need more drop in centers
 - Concerns of Residents
 - It is time to prioritize the needs of all citizens, not just the needs of addicts!
 - Neglecting the rest of the community for addicts is unfair!
 - Community has become infested with drug addicts!
 - Trash – is of concern
 - Theft/Stealing in community is on the increase – is of concern
 - Can't have packages delivered!
 - People doing drugs, needles on the street, people half-dressed, standing on corners – is of concern
 - Biggest Concern – our children should not have to grow-up in this environment!
 - Concerned for our school aged children!
 - Programs seem to be unproductive
 - We are asking the Council for help enforcing petty crimes! And, if possible send them to program clinics outside of the city!

- Overdose Centers affects communities negatively!
 - Scared of possible retaliation
 - Some discussion regarding homeownership versus Section Eight (8)
 - Representative from Public Defender's Office
 - Peer intervention works – it is data-proven!
 - Incarceration does not produce good outcomes!
 - Expansion of programs are needed
 - The Public Defender's Office stands in solidarity to assist with this issue!
3. Several agency representatives were in attendance and joined together to present and discuss a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
4. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
- Question(s)/Comments/Concerns/etc.:
 - Agency Coordination
 - Walk us through how agencies work together to actualize this plan while considering all residents and/or communities.
 - Concern: The exhaustion that is happening in communities!
 - Sense of Urgency: Interagency collaboration between agencies as it relates to substance abuse!
 - **Requested by Chairwoman Porter: To Mayor's Office: Provide and/or share data on a bi-annual (every six months) basis, the information/data received from the Overdose Stats.**
 - Reduction of Overdose Deaths
 - The goal is to reduce overdose deaths by 40% by a specific time!
 - What date and year will you begin collecting data?
 - Do you think the percentage should be higher?
 - Medicaid/Medicare Role in Treatment
 - Are you tracking data by age, race, etc.?
 - Safe Consumption Sites
 - Is there a plan within the plan for such sites?
 - Community Partnerships
 - How does the City and State work on these issues, such as over-concentrated areas and outreach?
 - Overdose Prevention Centers
 - Talked about the importance of recovery!
 - Comments regarding unnecessary overdose deaths
 - Is thankful for the many partners in Baltimore city relating to harm reduction!
 - Comments regarding the location of prevention centers
 - Question: Are we developing a clear understanding of where the needs are needed in the city?
5. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks, "she talked about the importance of interagency collaboration/coordination. This conversation must be on-going based on what was discussed today! We can't afford any more lives loss! We need specific outcomes; need to get it right this time." She thanked the Mayor's Office for sending (bringing together) the many different opinions!
6. Hearing recessed; to reconvene sometime in September; (to be announced at a later date).

Further Study

**Was further study requested?
If yes, describe.**

☐ Yes ☒ No

1. See "red" highlights above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff
cc: Bill File

Date: July 11, 2025




Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight: City's Response to the Opioid Crisis	# LO25-0021
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Phylicia Porter
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY				What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u>				For	Against	Yes	No
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify				
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ricardo	Bunk	421 Fallway - Balt. Md Health Care for the Homeless	✓				
Christine	Ogboe	1001 Fayette St. Baltimore City Health Dept.	✓				
Catalina	Byrd	1949 W. Lafayette Ave. Baltimore, MD 21217	✓				
Chuck	CAWASH	100 S STRUCKER ST 21223					
Vern	McGrinnick	102 Saint Paul St 21202	✓				

*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




Baltimore City Council

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Candy	Kenn	Balti Moreham medication Coalition 116 E 26th St Bmore 21202					
Bakari	Atiba	Charm City Care Connection					
Charlene	Bees	Morrell Park					
Marguerite	Lanank	Maryland Office of Public Defender	✓				
Jodie	Jackson	Morrell Park					

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City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Health & Environment Committee

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
#1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2337 148 1897, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m4382ba08c7c4c30bff11016d57e4364d)
MTID=m4382ba08c7c4c30bff11016d57e4364d

LO25-0021 - City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, and John Bullock

Absent 3 - Mark Conway, James Torrence, and Odette Ramos

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO25-0021 City's Response to the Opioid Crisis

For the purpose: to provide a platform for city agencies, healthcare providers, and community advocates to discuss ongoing challenges, identify service gaps, and explore policy solutions to enhance Baltimore's collective response to opioid addiction and overdose prevention.

Hearing recessed; to reconvene in September 2025.(TBA)

ADJOURNMENT