



## HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 25-0016R

### Informational Hearing – Black Maternal Health

**Committee:** Public Health and Environment

**Chaired by:** Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**Time (Beginning):** 10:10 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:50 PM

**Location:** Council Chambers

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 25 In-Person  
Approximately 5 Virtually

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Phylicia Porter      Mark Conway  
James Torrence

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 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. Kanika Harris, Ph.D., National Association to Advance Black Birth
- Julia Roche, Health Department
- Janet Billings, Health Department
- Daphney Hicks, Health Department
- Ashley Cunningham, Health Department
- Zachary Wellman, Equity and Civil Rights
- Lydia Harris, Speaker

- Ana Rodney, Advocate
  - Ashlee Johnson, Speaker
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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Porter, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks.
2. Dr. Harris testified and gave a PowerPoint Presentation. After her testimony, Councilwoman Porter informed the attendees about why she invited Dr. Harris to the hearing; also stated, "I want to support her group as well as other groups."
3. The representative from the Health Department gave 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)**
    - Can you explain what "dyad care" is?
    - Who receives and/or where does the recommendations from the Youth Advisory Board go?
    - How many schools participate in your program? And are you thinking about expanding to middle and elementary schools?
  - **Concerns**
    - Data/Statistics Presented in the PowerPoint Presentation
      - This data clearly indicates that more is needed to address this issue!
      - What can we (City Council ) do to help change this data?
      - The slides are disturbing!
      - **Requested by Chairwoman Porter: Please submit: Of the \$28 million allocated to the "Bureau," how much is city funded?**
  - **Comments:**
    - Black Health Death Rates are not like this in other countries!"
    - Want to know what we (City Council) can do to help change these rates and give support!
    - Paternal health is also important to pregnancies – men have the opportunity to learn what is needed!
    - Protecting important and necessary data; proper support and partnerships are necessary to guard against what is now being done at the federal level
  - **Health Care Landscape and Health Care Issues**
    - Care needed during pregnancies for:
      - Pre-mature babies
      - Cesarean births
      - Proper support needed
    - The health care issues now in Congress – is of concern/disturbing
      - A series of new bills are forthcoming to codify some of the things discussed today!
      - The Nation is in a dilemma now; so much funding is being taken away!
      - More outreach campaigns are needed
      - More partnerships are needed

- More education in homes is needed
  - Access to adequate transportation to health care needed
  - 5. Councilwoman Porter informed the attendees about why she invited representatives from the Office of Equity and Civil Rights to the hearing.
  - 6. The representative from the Office of Equity and Civil Rights gave a PowerPoint Presentation: **A copy is on file.**
  - 7. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/or concern were:
    - **Question(s)**
      - Do we have any lactation rooms in City Hall?
        - **Committee Request by Chairwoman Porter: Please provide: How many lactation rooms are in city government agencies; to include where they are located.**
  - 8. Three (3) people gave public testimony. Some statements and/or concerns stated were:
    - Comments:
      - “What is good for black women is good for all women!
      - Totally supports “life support agenda”
      - Works closely with the City’s Health Department and the Department is doing great work!
      - Talked about training and professional development
      - Fathers are needed!
    - Concerns:
      - Not enough pre-natal care!
      - Not enough conversations!
  - 9. A committee member stated, “When we think about Maternal Health we often forget about the role of the father, which is taking care of the mother after giving birth!” Also, thank you for the work you are doing with fathers.
  - 10. Chairwoman Porter asked one speaker to explain the difference between a “doula” and a “midwife.” Afterward, she stated, “I would like to see more collaboration between the two in the future.”
  - 11. Chairwoman Porter thanked everyone for attending and for doing the work that they do. She also stated, “This is one of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) steps of our conversation on this matter. Hearing called to recess; to reconvene at a later date.
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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe.

1. See all requests above highlighted in both “red and yellow” above.
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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff  
cc: Bill File

Date: June 3, 2025




# Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Resolution:</b> Informational Hearing – Black Maternal Health	Resolution # 25-0016R
Committee: Public Health and Environment	Chair: Danielle McCray
Date: <b>Wednesday, May 14, 2025</b>	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: <b>Council Chambers</b>	

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY**

			<b>Testify</b> 	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1. Lydia	Harris	1409 Olive St Labor With Love Lydia@laborwithlove.co	✓	✓			✓
2. Ana R	Rodney	56e Parkway CT Nottingham MD 21236 Doula Alliance of MD ana.r.rodney@gmail.com	✓	✓			✓
3. Oliviyah	Bowens	Mamananda Birth Circle mamanandabirthcircle@ Baltimore, MD gmail.com	✓	✓			
Daphne	Hicks	Baltimore City Health Dept. Daphne.Hicks@baltimorecity.gov	✓	✓			
Jana G	Goins	Baltimore City Health Dept Jana.Goins@baltimorecity.gov	✓	✓			
Julia	Roache	Baltimore City Health Dept		✓			
Ashley R.	Cunningham	Baltimore City Health Dept. Ashley.Cunningham@baltimorecity.gov	✓				
Zachary	Wellman	Equity & Civil Rights					

\*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




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First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ashlee	Johnson	2737 Chesley Ave	✓				✓

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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

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

10:00 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:  
#1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2346 165 2254, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m49d4e31a73a24a1b5820ad9880e8d53b)  
MTID=m49d4e31a73a24a1b5820ad9880e8d53b

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#### 25-0016R - Informational Hearing - Black Maternal Health

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 3 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, and James Torrence

**Absent** 4 - Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, John Bullock, and Odette Ramos

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 25-0016R Informational Hearing – Black Maternal Health

FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Health Department, Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, and other relevant parties to appear before the City Council to provide insight on the perinatal and reproductive healthcare needs of the Black community of Baltimore and to discuss strategies to support access to effective perinatal and reproductive healthcare for Black parents.

Hearing called to recess.

#### ADJOURNMENT