

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

 ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO25-0002

Title: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Committee: Budget & Appropriations

Chaired by: Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: 5/15/2025

Time (Beginning): 1:05 PM

Time (Ending): 1:49 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Committee Members in Attendance:

Zeke Cohen
Sharon Middleton
Odette Ramos

Danielle McCray
Paris Gray

Isaac (Yitzy) Schleifer
Antonio Glover

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
Motioned by:.....
Seconded by:.....
Final Vote:.....

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Elizabeth Tatum, Acting Chief Recovery Officer – Mayor’s Office of Recovery Programs (MORP)

- Shamiah Kerney, Deputy City Administrator – City Administrator’s Office

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray welcomed colleagues, members of the Administration, and attendees. Chairwoman introduced LO25-0002 for the purpose of calling for quarterly financial oversight hearings regarding the management, disbursement and status of \$641 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds to the City of Baltimore.
2. The floor was open to a presentation from MORP by the Acting Chief Recovery Officer Elizabeth Tatum [See PowerPoint].
 - The presentation provided an overall update on the progress of expenditure and the current budget, with a focus on projects/agencies that are spending less than 50% of funds. In addition, the presentation included a brief update on the Opioid Restitution funds (included anticipated expenses and the initial disbursed payment).
3. At the end of the presentation, Chairwoman McCray opened the floor to questions from the committee members. Topics discussed in the hearing are as follows:
 - Determining equity in ARPA programs and how equity was prioritized [See further study request].
 - University of Baltimore is working on developing a Spend Analysis on Equity (in progress)
 - Addressing problems such as sidewalk repairs and traffic light structures – determined that the opportunity to use ARPA as a source of funding is limited since the city is passed the obligation deadline with Treasury – and therefore cannot change the scope of work.
 - Determining the type of technical support MORP is providing as it relates to the Opioid Restitution Fund.
 - Collaboration with the Office of Overdose Response to include conversations with partners, site visits, budget review, qualitative feedback on grant applications.
 - Determining performance measures for Opioid Restitution funds that have been disbursed.
 - A combination of standard and unique measures has been established based on project design and collective impact
 - Concerns shared about the limited amount of funds available within the first year based on the settlement [See further study request].
 - A very small percentage going out to agencies (MORP’s comments about a conservative approach based on lessons learned).
 - Multi-year grants
 - Determining the number of staff funded by ARPA that have/will transition to the general fund or another grant source [See further study request].

4. Hearing called to a recess.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe.

Bill #	Committee		Requested Agency	Timeline
	Member	Request		
LO25-0002	Schleifer	How does MORP determine equity on the spending of ARPA dollars? To include: i. The rubric and the scoring rubric for applications. ii. Copy of the treasury report and the copy of the questions that were required to answer in the treasury report. iii. Description of the Equity Spend Analysis.	MORP	5/22/2025
LO25-0002	Cohen	In regard to the Opioid Restitution Fund, how much funding is going out to named entities (to include city government) in the initial disbursement in FY25? And what is anticipated in FY26?	MORP	5/22/2025
LO25-0002	Gray	Provide a comprehensive list of all staff in ARPA Funded positions by agency and department? To include: i. A list of positions that will be absorbed into the general fund. ii. A list of positions that will not be absorbed into the general fund and positions that will transition to another grant/fund source.	MORP	5/22/2025

Committee Vote: N/A

Paroma Nandi , Committee Staff

Date: 5/15/2025

Cc: Bill File