



HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 20-0199R

Investigative Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore

Committee: Health

Chaired by: Kristerfer Burnett

Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM

Time (Ending): 12:55 PM

Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting

Total Attendance: Approximately 140

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Clarke		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Henry		
Final Vote:	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- D’Paul Nibber, Health Department
- Michelle Wirzberger, Police Department
- Kevin Bailey, Police Department
- Gill Joyner, Police Department
- Lt. Colonel Brown, Police Department
- Joshua Civin, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Stacey Jefferson, Behavioral Health System
- Katie Yorick, Homelessness Services
- Jabari Lyles, Office of the Mayor
- Iya Dammons, Baltimore Safe Haven

- Josiah Damore, City Resident
 - Monique Stevens Yorkman, City Resident
 - Mannat Malik, City Resident
 - Lee Blinder, Speaker
 - Atticus Zavaletta, Speaker
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. The Chairman informed all attendees about how the hearing would proceed.
2. President Scott gave opening remarks. Some highlights of his conversation were:
 - We want to make sure the transgender community is protected and taking care of
 - Talked about some of the violent incidents that has occurred in the transgender community
 - Made comments about the beautiful culture of the transgender community
 - We must support and protect all Baltimoreans!
3. Testimony was received from several city agency representations and other organizations. Some highlights of their conversations were:
 - A representative from the **Health Department** talked about some of the services the Department provides to the transgender community.
 - Several representatives from the **Police Department** testified:
 - A PowerPoint Presentation was given – **a copy is on file**
 - Comments/Discussions About:
 - Understands the challenges the transgender community faces
 - Transgender Inequity
 - About polices in place to assist the transgender community
 - Types of arrests and/or enforcement
 - **Per Michelle Wirzberger, she will forward the link for information available by the Department**
 - Some of the questions and/or comments from the **committee/council members** that were addressed to the **Police Department**
 - Comments and/or concern surrounding sex worker issues
 - A recent change of policy concerning condoms – why the push and/or change?
 - A representative from the **Baltimore City Public School System** testified. Some highlights of his discussion were:
 - About partnerships and advocacy pertaining to sex-based discrimination
 - Policies in place used to assist the transgender community
 - Compliances and stated that the BCPSS is committed to this community
 - Talked about gender neutral facilities within the BCPSS
 - Some of the questions and/or comments from the **committee/council members** that were addressed to the **BCPSS**:
 - **Gender-Neutral facilities**
 - How are you moving forward with these facilities? **Response: We are moving forward to making all schools gender-neutral.**

- **Request made by Councilman Cohen:** Please report back about the progress made with the gender-neutral facilities; a timeline to include how many buildings already have these type facilities.
- What are some of the things the BCPSS are doing to assist the transgender community; such as bullying?
- A representative from the **Behavioral Health System** testified. Some highlights of his discussion were:
 - Talked about that the organization does
 - Talked about some of the trauma experienced by the transgender community
 - About the initiatives and support that are available to the community
 - About behavioral health and wellness services
- A representative from **Homelessness Services** testified. Some highlights of her discussion were:
 - Services available to the transgender community
 - Recognizes that institutional discrimination does exist
 - Is committed to giving accessibility where needed
- A representative from the **Office of the Mayor, LGBTQ Affairs Office** testified. Some highlights of his discussion were:
 - Thanked the committee for holding the hearing
 - Stands by their agency report
 - Talked about the role/duties of his position
 - Goal is to right the wrong and redirect the future
 - The transgender community is brought together by open oppression
 - Many of the challenges of the community are solve through “specificity”
 - Many residents in the transgender community experience a life of scarcity and oppression
 - This has been the deadliest year of all for the killing of transgender people!
 - Currently we do not live in a world where transgender people can thrive!
 - There are so many barriers preventing the community from thriving
 - I implore you to take in their remarks today!
 - There is a lack of available health care
 - Many people don’t understand the meaning and/or what “gender” means
 - The transgender community is calling on the Mayor and City Council to abolish Article 19 – The loitering law
 - We need to have a citywide conversation on humanity and requests the City Council’s full support!
- Some of the questions and/or comments from the **committee/council members** that were addressed to the **representative from the Office of the Mayor:**
 - Housing issues seems to come up all the time, discrimination, funding, etc. What does this issue look like to you and what do you think is needed to make progress in the community? **Response: We need to look to other municipalities that have been successful supporting the transgender community with housing and we need to have a conversation about available resources**

- A representative from Baltimore Safe Haven testified. Some highlights of his/her discussion were:
 - We are in a state of emergency for black transgender people in Baltimore City!
 - Issues:
 - ✓ Equal opportunity
 - ✓ Discrimination, bullying
 - ✓ Suicide, trauma
 - ✓ Oppression
 - ✓ Diseases, infection, lack of health care
 - ✓ All coming from the place we call home!
 - Several residents and/or other attendees testified. Some highlights from his/her conversations were:
 - Comments/Concerns:
 - Where is our help?
 - Where is the plan?
 - We need you today!
 - Resources are needed
 - The community needs housing and funding
 - Getting adequate jobs is of concern (being inclusive)
 - Please speak to us not through us!
 - Supports Baltimore Safe Haven but still not enough organizations are available, we need more
 - Concern: Need more legal services available
 - Concern: Would like to see more Councilmembers attend meeting in the community
 - Concern: Affordable housing and harm reduction
 - One speaker talked about her life experiences working with and/or through Baltimore Safe Haven
 - One Speaker spoke on behalf of the Senior Trans Women
 - Is a trans women
 - Concern: Being put in a place that matches her gender
 - It is important to “follow through” when needed
 - Trans organizations need to be supported
 - We are not sex workers, that is not what we are!
 - Let’s not play games about what the Police really do! Policies need to be worked on
 - One speaker gave a PowerPoint Presentation – **a copy is on file**
 - Some questions addressed to the speakers from Councilman Cohen were:
 - The Trauma-Informed Task Force will be looking at comprehensive trauma across the city. Are there any recommendations you have to help support the transgender community?
 - Ten (10) years out if the proper resources were allocated, what would it look like in Baltimore City?
4. The chairman gave closing remarks, “There is a lot more work to do in the transgender community.” Hearing concluded. Vote taken.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See "yellow" highlight in #3 above.
-

Committee Vote:

K. Burnett Yea
B. Henry..... Yea
M. Clarke Yea
E. Reisinger Absent
I. Schleifer: Yea

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: September 25, 2020

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 9-15-20

RESOLUTION #: 20-0199R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Investigative Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore

MOTION BY: Clarke SECONDED BY: Henry

- FAVORABLE FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
 UNFAVORABLE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Burnett, Kristerfer - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, Bill - Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarke, Mary Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisinger, Edward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TOTALS	4	—	1	—

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, *[Signature]*

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin, Initials: mmc



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: **Council Resolution** – Investigative Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore **Resolution #:** 20-0199R

Committee: Health **Chair:** Kristerfer Burnett

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 **Time:** 10:00 AM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber *Virtual WebEx Meeting*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



			What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*			
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>See hearing notes</i>					

*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

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Health

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

10:00 AM Webex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 129
409 5952, Password: Public
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8fbaa640ec2f907312efbdd6a7dd7c57)
MTID=e8fbaa640ec2f907312efbdd6a7dd7c57

20-0199R
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Kristerfer Burnett, Bill Henry, Mary Pat Clarke, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Absent 1 - Edward Reisinger

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

20-0199R

Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland State Health Department and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore.

Sponsors: President Brandon M. Scott, Bill Henry, Eric T. Costello, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Ryan Dorsey, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Zeke Cohen, John T. Bullock, Mary Pat Clarke, Edward Reisinger, Sharon Green Middleton, Kristerfer Burnett, Shannon Sneed, Danielle McCray, Robert Stokes, Sr.

A motion was made by Clarke, seconded by Henry, that City Council Resolution 20-0199R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Burnett, Henry, Clarke, and "Yitzy" Schleifer

Absent: 1 - Reisinger