

HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0052R

Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Employees - Safe Transition to Work After COVID-19

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: August 18, 2021

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM

Time (Ending): 11:05 AM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 40 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock

Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey

Phylicia Porter Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

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.)

Todd Carter, Office of Information and Technology

Dr. Kendra McDow, Department of Health

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and discussed the need to ensure employee safety as the City transitions back to physical workspaces.
2. Todd Carter and Dr. McDow presented on the Restoration of Services Oversight Committee (RSOC), current COVID-19 data, and the City's reopening process (presentation in file).
3. Representatives for the other agencies confirmed the recommendations and comments in their written reports.
4. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
 - a. How will planned transitions back to physical workspaces be communicated to employees? The RSOC is working with a communications team and agency contacts. Employees will have six weeks notice before changes and the RSOC Resource Guide is available to all employees.
 - b. Where is the Resource Guide located? It is available on the City's intranet splash page.
 - c. How is the City addressing employee mental health when transitioning back to physical workspace? The Employee Assistance Program is available to all employees and has been operating with extended hours throughout the pandemic.
 - d. Are emerging COVID-19 variants, such as Delta, changing the timeline or communications? The RSOC is monitoring emerging issues and consulting with the Health Department regularly.
 - e. Does the City have protocols for cleaning and air-quality in City buildings? The Department of General Services has expanded cleaning services and developed protocols consistent with CDC guidance.
 - f. Is the City considering mandatory employee vaccination? The possibility is under discussion, but there is no decision yet.
 - g. What incentives will the City offer to encourage employees to get vaccinated? The incentives have not been finalized yet, but the RSOC will keep the Committee informed.
 - h. Does the City have any data on the percentage of employees vaccinated? The Department of Human Resources collects that information on a voluntary basis and the numbers for City employees appear to mirror the City's population as a whole.
 - i. Does the City provide mobile vaccination for employees? Mobile vaccination efforts are going throughout the City and there will be a focus on public-facing agencies. There were two mobile vaccination events during the summer and more are planned for the fall.
5. Chairwoman McCray explained that the Committee may hold additional meetings on the resolution in the future and recessed the hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No


If yes, describe.

1. The RSOC will inform the Committee on the timeline for deciding whether to mandate employee vaccination and will keep the Committee updated on any decisions.

2. The RSOC will keep the Committee updated on potential incentives for employees to get vaccinated.
3. The Committee may hold additional meetings on the resolution in the future.

Committee Vote:

D. McCray:
J. Bullock:
M. Conway:
R. Dorsey:
P. Porter:
J. Torrence:
I. Schleifer:



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: August 19, 2021

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File