

For Internal Use Only



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Legislative Oversight – LO #22-0022

Office of Employment Development – Youth Works

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair
John Bullock – Vice Chair
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Antonio Glover
Odette Ramos
Robert Stokes
Staff: Jennifer Coates

WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)

Eric Costello, Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray
Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Robert Stokes
Staff: Marguerite Currin

PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)

Mark Conway – Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Zeke Cohen
Erick Costello
Antonio Glover
Phylicia Porter
Odette Ramos
Staff: Samuel Johnson

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)

Robert Stokes – Chair
John Bullock
Zeke Cohen
Antonio Glover
Sharon Green Middleton
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence
Staff: Marguerite Currin

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)

Danielle McCray – Chair
John Bullock
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Staff: Matthew Peters

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Mark Conway
Erick Costello
Sharon Green Middleton
Odette Ramos
James Torrence
Staff: Richard Krummerich



LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

LO 22-0022

Office of Employment Development - Youth Works

Purpose:

For the purpose of holding periodic hearings to receive updates from the Office of Employment Development regarding workforce development strategies for Baltimore City; **specifically, Youth Works**.

Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Background

The Youth Works Summer Job Program provides five-weeks of summer work to thousands of Baltimore City's youth. The program is implemented by the Office of Employment Development (OED).

On February 10, 2022, representatives from the OED came before the Committee to give an update about some of the workforce development strategies pertaining to this Program.

On May 12, 2022 representative from the OED will come back before the Committee to discuss and/or give updates about the Program.

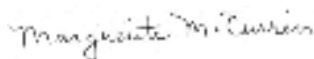
Following are notes taken at the February 10, 2022 hearing:

Major Speakers at the February 10th hearing

- Jason Perkins-Cohen, Office of Employment Development (OED)
- Donnice Brown, Office of Employment Development
- Shvilla Rashaam, Office of Employment Development

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Stokes gave opening remarks. Some remarks were:
 - Talked about the importance of getting youth (young people) involved
 - What better way to getting young people involved than through YouthWorks!
2. Director Perkins-Cohen along with several of his staff members presented a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.** "YouthWorks is an investment in "Young Baltimoreans!"
3. The committee members asked questions, made comments, and etc. Some highlighted topics of discussion were:
 - Representatives from the OED was asked to talk about some of their outreach efforts
 - Questions:
 - Who decided only \$4 million out of the \$30 million would be used for YouthWorks?
 - What is the remaining \$26 million to be used for? **One answer was: "Must be affected by COVID in order to use funding"**
 - Where is the workforce expanding? Where are the opportunities for growth?
 - Can you talk more about your partnerships with industries?
 - Is any data available about where you see potential in job growth and how OED is reaching out to facilitate same? **Requested by Councilman Cohen: Please submit data regarding job growth**
 - What is the possibility of having some of our young folks working at the Port of Baltimore?
 - The Port of Baltimore is a massive industry for the city; an important industry that is growing and should be looked at for job opportunities!
 - **Also see attached list of questions, some were asked during the hearing**
4. Was further study requested? Yes – See **highlighted request in yellow** above.
5. The hearing was called to recess.



Committee Staff: Marguerite Murray Currin
Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

Date: May 9, 2022

LO22-0022 -Youthworks

- MOED received [\\$30 million](#) to expand workforce development in the City from ARPA funds. How does MOED plan on maintaining this level of investment which will help expand the number of youth participants in YouthWorks to 4,000 over two summers?
 - Additionally, does MOED have a long-term plan to ensure the sustainability of the YouthWorks Academy being funded through ARPA? What will be the application process for youth interested in participating in the YouthWorks Academy?
- What is MOED doing to address the digital divide and the ways it hinders youth employment?
- What health and safety precautions are MOED implementing to ensure that the YouthWorks program participants are working in a safe, healthy environment during this global pandemic?
- Do you know how many YouthWorks participants identify as foster youth or a youth experiencing homelessness?
 - Does MOED assist these youth in obtaining housing or providing them rental assistance? Does MOED provide housing resources for individuals in other workforce development programs besides YouthWorks?
 - What has MOED seen as the biggest barrier for employment for foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness?
- Youth that identify as LGBTQ are at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness, and these youth are also underrepresented in YouthWorks participation. What steps is MOED taking to engage these young people, specifically trans and nonbinary youth, in the YouthWorks Academy?
 - How is MOED working with employers to ensure that youths are working in inclusive environments?
- What barriers to job acquisition and retention do job seekers most often report?
- Is there programming or considerations made for youth, have been, or have a guardian that is or has been criminal justice involved?
- Can MOED share its employment selection and matching process?
 - Are assessments performed to determine interest, career, and education?
- Does the YouthWorks program ever have youth return after a summer? If so, how many?
- Does MOED collect data on how many of its job seekers are experiencing homelessness, or are experiencing an emergency housing need?
 - If so, how have job seekers been impacted by COVID-19 and subsequent changes to the housing and rental market?
 - What referrals and supports do Job Centers offer to people in emergency housing situations?
 - How has MOED developed job training programs that are accessible for people that are experiencing homelessness or other housing crises?