### CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



### OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director 415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596 email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

### **HEARING NOTES**

Bill: 22-0235

### Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Committee:

Ways and Means

Chaired by:

Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed

Hearing Date: June 1, 2022

### Budget Hearings - Day Two - June 1, 2022

### **Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC)**

Time (Beginning):

9:00 AM

Time (Ending):

9:35 AM

Location:

Council Chambers

Total Attendance:

Approximately 25

### **Department of Finance**

Time (Beginning):

10:00 AM

Time (Ending)

11:05 AM

Location:

Council Chambers

Total Attendance:

Approximately 40

### Department of Human Resources and the Office of the Labor Commissioner

Time (Beginning):

12:30 PM

Time (Ending)

1:45 PM

Location:

Council Chambers

Total Attendance:

Approximately 30

### Law Department

Time (Beginning):

2:00 PM

Time (Ending)

3:05 PM

Location:

Council Chambers

Total Attendance:

Approximately 20

### **Baltimore City Information Technology (BCIT)**

Time (Beginning):

3:30 PM

Time (Ending)

4:30 PM

Location:

Council Chambers

Total Attendance:

Approximately 25

BCIT, Broa	idband and Digital Equity and Chief Data Officer					
Time (Begin	nning): 5:00 PM					
Time (Endi	ng) 5:35 PM					
Location:	Council Chambers					
<b>Total Atten</b>	dance: Approximately 20					
Departmen	t of Public Works (DPW)					
Time (Begin	nning): 6:10 PM					
Time (Endi	ng) 11:55 PM					
Location:	Council Chambers					
Total Atten	dance: Approximately 80					
Committee	Members in Attendance: <u>Day Two</u>					
Eric T. Cost	ello Danielle McCray					
Robert Stoke	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
	n Middleton Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer					
Excused Ab	sence: Kristerfer Burnett					
Bill Synopsis in the file?						
	Major Speakers (This is not an attendance record.)					
•	Colin Tarbert, Baltimore Development Corporation					
•	Kim Clark, Baltimore Development Corporation					
•	Henry Raymond, Department of Finance					
•	Quintin Herbert, Department of Human Resources					
•	Deborah Moore-Carter, Office of the Labor Commissioner					
•	James Shea, City Solicitor					
•	Ebony Thompson, Deputy Solicitor					
•	rodu Carter, Daithillore City illomiation reconology					
•	Todd Carter, Baltimore City Information Technology Jason Hardebeck, Broadband and Digital Equity					
•	Jason Hardebeck, Broadband and Digital Equity					
•						

### **Major Issues Discussed**

### June 1, 2022 – Day One – Budget Hearings

- 1. Nine (9) representatives came before the committee/councilmembers to talk about his/her fiscal year 2023 budget proposal. Copies of all PowerPoint Presentations are on file
- 2. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. And, if applicable went over the responses to letters of information sent to them. Some highlights of same were:

## I. Baltimore Development Corporation

- 1. Director Tarbert talked about some of the after effects from the Pandemic/COVID.
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

### Port of Baltimore

- o Are there any conversations about expanding the Port?
- Are there any conversations about expanding small businesses in south Baltimore?
- o Baltimore City is number #1 in the area of imports/experts!!

### Technology Centers

- Is glad to see that technology centers are emerging to provide technological assistance
- o Is there a map available to show the businesses that you help with this program?
- o Talk about some of your strategies for community engagement
- o Comments regarding Information Hubs
- Chairman Costello thanked the Director and his team for the good work that they do!

### II. Department of Finance

• The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

### o Payroll/Workday

- How has the system changed for paying sub-contractors? Talk about this
- Where are we with Workday?

### o Tax Sales Department

- How many of the cashiers speak other languages?
- Is there a plan to hire applicants who speak other languages?
- Staggered Work Shifts Have you every considered staggering the work shifts?
- Comments and questions regarding the Homestead Tax Credit

### Security Deposit Act

• Does this come under your Office? Answer: No

### Print Shop

 The City's print shop also provide printing for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPS)

- Have you considered taking another step with BCPS for an Apprenticeship Program?
- That is, thinking outside of the box to help partner with our youth in areas such as financial literacy and/or an apprenticeship program?

### Responses to Letter Sent to the Department of Finance in Early May

- The committee/councilmembers discussed the responses submitted by the Department
- Some topics and/or areas of concern and discussion were:
  - Thanked the Director for the comprehensive responses sent in response to their inquiries
  - o Talk about timely payments to contractors
  - o Who is in charge of the Accounts Payable Unit? The City is failing grossly in this area/unit. Concern: untimely payments
  - o Requested by Chairman Costello: Would like to sat down with the Division Head of the Accounts Payable Unit to discuss our concerns

### Commendation/Comments

- Several committee/councilmembers thanked Director Raymond and his staff for their good work
- Chairman Costello stated, "You and your staff are incredibly responsive. And, thank you for an exceptional career with the City of Baltimore."

## III. Department of Human Resources and Office of the Labor Commissioner

• The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

### o Human Resources

- Has HR worked with agencies to develop Succession Plans? Answer: Yes, is working with agencies to develop benchmarks and plans.
- When will the succession planning report be released? Answer: Should be within the next few weeks. The Mayor's approval is needed.
- Did you submit a request for ARPA funding for any capital projects? Answer:
   No.

### • Hiring Process/Vacancies/Salaries

- The hiring process is too slow and firing is almost non-existent!
- What is HR doing to reduce the vacancy rate?
- Some of the DPW programs (staffing) are near 30% vacant. How are you prioritizing recruitment efforts?
- How long does it take to fill a position? Answer: Varies by position
- Requested by Councilmember Conway: Provide a list of hard to fill vacancies.
- Where are we with aligning salaries and other benefits with other cities and/or jurisdictions?
- Are all agencies required to have a development plan for each employee?
- The sanitation workers, water and wastewater employees, CDL drivers all need better salaries in order for the City to retain their employment
- o Do we still have Pay for Performance?

### Drug Testing

- There was a change in policy for drug testing
- There is no marijuana testing if the position is not a safety sensitive classified position. Do safety sensitive positions get random drug testing?

### Labor Commissioner

• The Labor Commissioner gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

### IV. Law Department

• The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

### MWBOO Office

- Comments regarding: Added capacity in MWBOO
- Suggestion: to make certification team permanent and:
  - o Add a Compliance Officer and an Outreach Officer
  - o Fill vacancies
  - Add Spanish speaking employee(s)
  - Increase training
  - o To create a new independent agency by a Charter amendment to merge agencies

### Settlements/Pay Outs

- How much was paid out for the Gun Task Force (GTTF) issue? Answer: About 14 million in total; there are six (6) cases left but more could come along.
- Does the City have insurance for police misconduct?

### Contracts – Non-Compliant

- How many contracts qualified as non-compliant?
- Do you track hiring requirements?
- What is the process for non-compliance of sub-contractors?
- Requested by Councilmember Ramos for Burnett: Provide how much the city
  has paid out for property damage and personal injury for the past few years.
  Also include how much damage was done to city property.
- Requested by Councilmember Porter: Provide MBE/WBE criteria and requirements to date for Port Covington

### APA Implementation

- Who will handle the APA implementation?
- Is there any guidance to agencies regarding storing APA documents on the server instead of the local hard drive in case of a ransomware attack?
- Requested by Member Dorsey: Confirm that each agency has done what they need to do for the APA implementation.

# V. <u>Baltimore City Information Technology / Broadband and Digital Equity / Chief Data Officer</u>

• The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

### BCIT

- Citi Watch Cameras
  - What role does BCIT play in the maintenance and upkeep of these cameras?

- In your estimation, which entity is responsible for these cameras?
   Answer: BCIT is responsible for the cameras
- O How many replacement cameras do you have in stock? Answer: Approximately 8 are in stock now.
- o What is the average unit cost per camera? Answer: \$2,500
- What is the average lifecycle for a camera? Answer: 7 to 8 years
- Are camera replacements and installation eligible for ARPA funds?
   Answer: They could be eligible!
- Do you know if the Baltimore Police Department have a policy for reviewing the cameras?
- We need more cameras installed; they are great tools and helps with crime fighting
- Want to reiterate the urgency of keeping cameras online!
- Requested by Councilmember Conway: Provide an update for how many arrests were made as a result of the Citi Watch cameras for fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2022.

### • 311 Call Center

- o Give us an update on the Call Center; talk about this
- o The new App for 311 Call Center
  - Will you have a Spanish app? Answer: Yes
  - When is the timeline for same? Answer: Currently don't have a timeline
  - Are you planning to recruit any Spanish speaking applicants?
  - Parking Enforcement versus 311 Call Center who is the best person to work with for operational issues?

### • Citi Works Program

- o Who oversees the program?
- O Comments regarding the importance of the Council being clear when talking or giving information to constituencies.

### • Bill Payment System

- Do you have an implementation date for the new bill payment system? Answer: Yes, will be staggering toward the end of calendar year 2022
- Talk about the processes for paying taxes that are in the arrears

### • Municipal ID Program

- This program has not been implemented to date, is this on your radar? Answer: No, not at this time.
- The Chairman and several committee/councilmembers thanked Director Carter for his leadership. Chairman Costello stated, "Your team is on the right track and gives great updates."

### o Broadband and Digital Equity

### Comments

- o Data equity and transparency is very importance
- Expansion of Wi-Fi in the city is overdue
- Procurement opportunities for minorities talk about this

### • Wi-Fi Expansion

- What are some of the other locations you have identified for the expansion of Wi-Fi?
- o The Park Heights area is getting a new library I hope the library is included in your expansion
- o Would like to see the Wi-Fi services at the Enoch Pratt Free Library expanded. Are you partnering with them?
- Community Action Centers
  - Wi-Fi is needed in these centers
- Community Engagement Plan
  - o What is the timeline for your Community Engagement Plan?
- Devices
  - Where are you with this? What are some of the updates? Talk about this
- Member Stokes commended Director Hardebeck for his office supplying centers with refurbished laptops

### Chief Data Officer

- The Chief Data Officer reports directly to the Chief Administrator's Office
- Responsibilities of the Chief Data Officer
  - o What is your office responsible for?
  - o What are some of the things your office does? Talk about this
    - Answer: One responsibility is data collection and making data more understandable
  - o Comment: Would like to see the progress you make in the position

### VI. <u>Department of Public Works</u>

- The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
  - o Responses to Letter Sent on May 19, 2022
    - I didn't like some of the responses!
    - Recycling and Street Cleaning
      - Law was read from the City Code
      - Did you know the City Code allows and/or states that recycling and trash removal is to be collected every week; not bi-weekly?
      - Why should the city pass your+ budget when core services are not in full services?
      - o How many employees are working in trash collection today?
      - O How many employees would you hire in a standard year for this unit?
      - o How many employees do you need to reach full capacity for weekly street sweeping and weekly recycling?
      - o This is an emergency situation!
      - o There are a number of issues in these areas!
        - Is not satisfied with the work performance
        - We are struggling with recycling and is heading in the wrong direction
        - We want to see a plan and strategies! Don't' want excuses; we want solutions!

- Per Chairman Costello, "I look forward to meeting with the Administration and you to come up with a plan to address these issues in accordance with city law."
- Recycling collection at city schools how many schools have you resume pickup?
- The cutback in recycling services and savings relating to same; the numbers just don't add up!
- o Requested by Member McCray:
  - Provide a plan for street sweeping starting at Parkside to the county
  - Street sweeping and cleaning is to be resume on a consistent basis on Belair Road

### Comments:

- We/City residents deserves core city services!
- We all want a better Baltimore but at the same time feel the plight of the DPW's employees!
- o Give DPW the funds needed to run the Department!
- We are advocating for DPW employees very strongly! But, DPW takes the longest time to respond to our concerns and questions!
- The problems with the DPW goes much further than COVID!
- O DPW needs to take a real look at their performance measures!
- This City belongs to us, not to the State! We (Council) are here to help DPW
- You need to increase communication strategies in DPW to elevate quality of life issues

### o CDL Training Program

- Is there an employment clause for this in the program? (Such as an agreement to stay employed for a specific amount of time?)
- Requested by Member Dorsey: Provide feedback on the policy regarding the employment clause for same

### o Water Billing Accounts

- There are several issues surrounding billing; we need to get to the root of the problems
- Several residents and/or businesses have not received bills and etc.
- Water billing credits city versus county credits talk about this
- Erroneous Water Bills
  - o Are payment plans available?
- Commercial Water Bills going into tax sales is of concern
  - Is there a way that we can streamline the process to pull them out of tax sale until the investigation is completed?
  - o Do you think 2 to 5 months is enough time to investigate a dispute?
- Is there a potential lawsuit against the City for water billing issues? Answer: To be addressed by the Law Department
- Requested by Member Dorsey: Would like to meet with DPW staff as soon as possible to discuss these issues
- o Water for All Program Is someone being hired? Talk about this

### o ARPA Funding

- Have any ARPA funds been awarded to DPW? If so, how much?
- When were the ARPA requests submitted?
- Have you received any feedback on the status of your requests?
- Comments regarding: The significant needs relating to improving facilities and about the needs/tools for employees
- Concern Providing basic core functions and services
  - o Importance of providing employees with the tools they need to perform their duties Could of used some of the ARPA funding!
  - o To Director Mitchell: Hope that you will reach out to the Administration as soon as possible (lobbying) for more funding
- Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide an itemized list of what you requested for ARPA funding in depth, not just a summary. To include:
  - Proposals
  - o Items/Description
  - What was directly related to facilities
  - Vehicles (how many too)

### o Transfer Station

- Landfill in East Baltimore is of concern
  - A new facility will be needed soon!
  - Comments and concerns regarding private contractors picking up city trash
  - The Transfer Station and other things under the Department needs to be revamped
- NW Transfer Station
  - Concern: The long wait time at the Station for small haulers. A solution is needed!
  - What is the fee for small haulers?
  - How much revenue do we receive annually from small haulers?
    - Some constituencies believe if fees were waived it would lower illegal dumping. What are your thoughts on this?

### Rollout Containers

- There are approximately 170,000 in total
- Why did you decide to distribute all of these containers when the current recycle level was down?
- o Employees' Morale/Salaries/Retention/Etc.
  - Comments
    - Morale is low in the Department
    - o Condition of the workplace is of concern
    - o We have to take care of our employees!
    - We must move our city in the right direction
      - I believe job retention will continue to be a problem
      - Is real data in place for job retention and higher salaries?
    - We can't afford for DPW not to be exceptional!
    - Want to shout out to (commend) our weekend workers!

- **Ouestions** 
  - Is there a plan in place to create a competitive environment for wage increases?
- Flooding
  - Flooding issue at 35th and Hillen Road
    - Is looking forward to coming up with a solution and thank you for spending time working on this issue
- **Inlets Quarterly Inspections** 
  - Explain this program
    - o Was this a pilot program?
- Sewage Onsite Support (SOS)
  - What percentage of SOS applications are used annually?
  - Who are the regulators?
  - How many residents are turned down and/or away from the SOS program?
- Compost Facility Plan
  - What community support strategies are being used to include community in
  - What guarantee do we have for community involvement?
- **Route Optimization** 
  - Talk about this, what are your doing in this area?
    - The amount of trash missed is of concern
- o Solar Cans What is going on with these cans? Is of concern
- o <u>Back River Station(s)</u> staffing issues at some of the plants; talk about this
- Recycling Schedule Can a calendar be posted every week on all social platforms?
- o Meter Shop
  - Being offline is of concern
  - How many employees are employed in the Meter Shop? Answer: Fifty (50)
  - How many of the employees were sent home for nine (9) months? Answer: Thirty-five (35)
  - What was the strategy used for not sending people out?
  - How much revenue did the city lose?
  - Requested by Member Schleifer: Provide the amount of revenue the city lost while the shop was closed
- 2. Statement: "We look forward to getting answers and working with the Department." Budget hearings called to recess; to reconvene on June 2, 2022.

# **Further Study** Yes No Was further study requested? If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see "red and yellow" highlights in Major Issues Discussed section above. marqueite m. Curin Date: June 10, 2022

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

cc: Bill File

**OCS** Electronic File



# **Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record**

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 – Day Two – BUDGET HEARINGS		Bill #: 22-0235							
Committee: Ways and Means			Cha	Chair: Eric T. Costello					
Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2022			Time: 9:00 AM						
<b>Location: Council</b>	Chambers								
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY					What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY			<u>Testify</u>	_	Against	S	0		
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	리	ᅙ	Ag	Yes	No		
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	<b>/</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>		
Collin	Tarbert	BDC							
Jeff	Piccas	BIC							
Shavel	DIXON	BDC							
Kins	Clark-	RAC							
John	Burklew	BBMR							
Josh	M:1200	MORP							
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<sup>\*</sup>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: <a href="https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/">https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/</a> or call: 410-396-4730



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Nadine	Qlaman	Finance						
Johanna	Collado	Finance						
Wilham	Clinton	Finance						
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Julie	Coluca	DHR		9				
Ray	6ulhar	DHR						
Lindsay	Wines	DHR						
Tonya	Brinkley	DHR						
Todd	Carta	BCIT						
NOZAL	HARDAGECK	MOBDE						
JUSTIN	ELSZASZ	CHIEF DATA OFFICER						

Page No

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## **City of Baltimore**

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

## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

## **Ways and Means**

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

9:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

22-0235:Budget Hearings: Day 2: Agency Group 1
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

**INTRODUCTIONS** 

**ATTENDANCE** 

Present 6 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

Excused 1 - Kristerfer Burnett

### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the

Fiscal 2023 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed; to reconvene on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

### **ADJOURNMENT**