



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0207

Vacant Building Notices

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: June 14, 2022

Time (Beginning): 2:30 PM

Time (Ending): 3:55 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey Odette Ramos Robert Stokes

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

Video 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: ..... Councilmember Ramos

Seconded by: ..... Councilmember Conway

Final Vote: ..... Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Councilmember Odette Ramos
- Jeffrey Hochstetler, Office of the City Solicitor
- Stephanie Murdock, Department of Housing and Community Development

- Jason Hessler, Department of Housing and Community and Development
- Mara James, Department of Finance
- Rebecca Woods. Environmental Control Board
- Robert Enten, Esquire, Gordan Feinblatt
- Carrie Baniszewski, Physical Development Management, Southwest Partnership
- Lisa Hodges, West Port Community and Economic Development Corporation

### Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Middleton read the bill into the record.
2. Councilmember Ramos explained the purpose for the bill. She also explained
3. proposed amendments.
4. Agency representatives presented reports for their agencies.
5. The Law Department’s recommended amendments are incorporated in Councilmember Ramos’ amendments.
6. Rebecca Woods testified on behalf of the Environmental Control Board (ECB) which supports the bill. She mentioned that the bill aligns with ECB actions to clarify wording on Vacant Building Notices and to improve the process.
7. Jason Hessler testified about his work with the Environmental Control Board and the level of understanding about Vacant Building Notices.
8. Robert Enten, who represents the Maryland Bankers Association, has no problem with the bill.
9. Carrie Baniszewski supports the bill and testified about the long process for acquiring vacant properties.
10. Lisa Hodges testified in support of the bill. She shared information about vacant units in the Westport area, as well as predatory buyers that do not maintain vacant properties.

### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

### Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair ..... Yea  
 John Bullock: ..... Yea  
 Mark Conway: ..... Yea  
 Ryan Dorsey: ..... Yea  
 Antonio Glover: ..... Absent  
 Robert Stokes: ..... Yea  
 Odette Ramos: ..... Yea

---

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: June 15 2022

cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File