



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 23-0353

Community Reinvestment and Reparations Commission

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: March 28, 2023

Time (Beginning): 2:10 PM

Time (Ending): 3:20 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chambers / Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Ryan Dorsey Mark Conway Antonio Glover Robert Stokes Odette Ramos

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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:.....			
Seconded by:.....			
Final Vote:.....			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Elena DiPietro, Department of Law
- Quentin Lawson, Department of Human Resources

- Mara James, Department of Finance
- J. Christoph Amberger, Board of Ethics
- Dayvon Love, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle
- Dana Moore, Baltimore City Office of Equity
- Nneka Nnamdi, Flight Blight Bmore
- Hakiam Ammi, Teaching Artist Institute
- Ray Winbush, Morgan State University
- Allen Turner
- Bobby Holmes. Baltimore Legacy Association of Black Social Workers
- Mazima Walker

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record. Baltimore is one of the first jurisdictions to take the lead on implementing new State law regarding the Community Reinvestment and Reparations Fund.
2. President Mosby provided background and historical information about the purpose bill.
3. Mara James spoke on behalf of the Department of Finance and deferred to the Law Department.
4. Quentin Lawson spoke on behalf of the Department of Human Resources and deferred to the Law Department.
5. Elena DiPietro spoke on behalf of the Law Department. She explained why the Law Department submitted an unfavorable report based on their interpretation n of State law. The Law Department stressed that State law did not mandate the creation of local commission. State law, however, does not preclude the creation of a commission. State law also did not mandate that funds should go into the local jurisdiction's general fund. She indicated that the Office of the Attorney General was not consulted about the intent of the bill concerning the creation of a local commission. She believes, however, that the bill can be amended to fully comply with State law.
6. Aaron Degraffenreidt explained that the commission is assigned certain tasks, including the completion of a report to the State to explain local expenditure of funds. The commission would also make recommendations on how funds would be disbursed to impacted areas.
7. Dana Moore testified and suggested utilizing the City's Equity Fund, established in 2017, as the holder for funds to be disbursed from the State. Currently the balance of the fund is \$0.
8. The committee asked agency reps questions and discussed the bill.
9. Ray Winbush testified about America's historical distribution of reparations. He shared common objections and precedence. Abraham Lincoln issued an unfulfilled order to his General William T. Sherman to distribute 40 acres to newly freed slaves. In 1971, America issued \$1 billion dollars and 4 million acres of land to the Alaskan native land settlers. In 1980, America issued \$81 million to the clamant tribe of Oregon. In 1985, \$105 million was given to the Dakotas of South Dakota. In 1990 Ronald Regan issued \$1.2 billion to Japanese held in internment during World War II. Objections such as slavery happened a long time ago persist; why should I pay for something I never took part in; or I was not born during the event and had nothing to do with what happened. In 1988, his taxes were used to pay for

reparations. Reparations is not a government shakedown nor is it a handout. On the questions of how people will be paid such as will people be paid with a check. One of the most complex institutions in American history is slavery itself and so the payment of reparations can be worked out. America has always been divided on the issue of race. America has not looked honestly at the impact of racism on the Black community. An honest dialogue is needed for Baltimore and the surrounding communities.

10. Nneka Nmandi testified about the incremental increase in disparate policies that harm Black people. There is a need for the bill.
11. Hakiam Amin testified in support of the bill.
12. Bobby Allen Turner Holmes testified in support of the bill and the need to provide resources to help address trauma for Black people.
13. Bobby Homes testified in support of the bill. He spoke about the impact social trauma has on Black families.
14. Mazima Walker testified about the impact of drug use on the Black community and the need for employment opportunities, especially for ex-offenders.
15. The committee listened to public testimony.
16. The hearing was recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. The committee would like an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the creation of a local commission to disburse funds; and whether State issue funds can be put into the local general fund.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair

John Bullock:

Mark Conway:

Ryan Dorsey:

Antonio Glover:.....

Robert Stokes:.....

Odette Ramos:

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: March 28, 2023

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File