

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: 23-0382

Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2024

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello
Hearing Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023
Time (Beginning): 6:15 PM
Time (Ending): 8:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 90 in-person
Approximately 20 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello	Kristerfer Burnett
Robert Stokes, Sr.	Sharon Green Middleton
Danielle McCray	Ryan Dorsey

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer – excused absence

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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Robert (Bob) Cename, Department of Finance, BBMR
- Approximately thirty (30) speakers, **In-Person Testimony**



Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Costello and President Mosby both gave opening remarks.
2. Approximately thirty (30) attendees gave oral testimony; (each speaker was allocated at least two minutes to speak). Some highlighted comments, topics and/or areas of concern were:
 - Water/Wastewater
 - Proper maintenance and equitably distributed – is of concern
 - Wastewater Utility
 - Need to stay in the hands of the City of Baltimore
 - Is the city's most viable asset!
 - Need to address the aging infrastructure
 - Hope the city will take a more active role in same
 - ADA Accessibility for the disabled
 - Every place should be accessible!
 - ADA Coordinators are needed
 - Truancy – is of concern
 - Chronic absenteeism too!
 - Hope the new curfew will be effective; if not we need to come up with a solution(s)
 - Recreation Centers
 - More are needed
 - More funding is needed
 - Housing
 - More funding needed for renters
 - \$25 million for emergency rental assistance
 - \$2 million for housing safety inspectors and inspections
 - Right to counsel for Renters needed
 - Eviction assistance needed
 - Need eviction protection
 - Is living in unsafe conditions
 - Good inspections are needed
 - Need adequate housing
 - Housing is Health!
 - Public and private housing funding is needed
 - There is a shortage/lack of available one-bedroom housing
 - Landlord versus tenant issues are of concern
 - Do not deserve to be placed on the streets!
 - Tired of being on the streets!
 - This budget does not reflect our values!
 - The people of the city deserve safe and affordable housing; inclusionary housing
 - Enoch Pratt Free Library / Libraries
 - Talked about the importance of having libraries
 - Want full funding for same
 - Talked about why funding is needed
 - Needs constant funding

- At least ½ million more
 - The library offers story time and fun time
 - Need part-time employees to fill-in
 - There is a range of things offered by libraries
 - The services offered are crucial
 - Libraries are a big resource to the City of Baltimore
 - Offers programs for kid/older kids
 - Salaries of the staff – is of concern
 - Talked about staffing shortages; understaffed
 - Workplace Safety
 - Has gotten so severe
 - Funding is needed to address violations
 - Skate Park
 - Is a place to exercise
 - Will give the youth something to do!
 - Have gone from a master plan to now a vision plan – Easter wood Skate Park
 - Funding was included in the 2020 budget; what happen
 - Have not seen any plans to suggest the project will move toward
 - Would like the plan to move forward
 - Where is the money for the park / Where is the plan!!!
 - ?
 - The city owes it to its taxpayers' to move forward!
 - The skate park is for all ages and all walks of life!
 - Documentation was submitted with signatures from community supporting the project – *copies are in the bill file*
 - Where has the funding gone for the skate park? Why have the skate park project been swept under the rug?
 - We were given something (Skate Park) and then it was taken away!
 - Don't understand why resources are denied to our children!
 - I travel to other cities and seen skate parks everywhere!
 - Please look into this issue and provide us with some concrete answers! Will you help?
 - Homelessness
 - End homelessness!
 - Why can't some of these city agencies and other organizations be outside engaging the homeless?
 - What can we do to get people off the streets?
 - Police Budget
 - The budget increased again!
 - We need to rethink what public safety means!
 - *Copies of written testimony received are on file.*
3. President Mosby gave closing remarks and stated, "the budget hearing schedule will be looked at for possible revisions next year."
4. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 31, 2023

cc: Bill File

OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Bill – Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2024 - TAXPAYERS' NIGHT	Bill #: 23-0382
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023	Time: 6:00 PM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

SIGN – IN - TO TESTIFY ONLY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Stephanie	Murdock	stephmurdock@gmail.com		✓			✓
ARGENTINE	CRATO	ASCRATO@COMCAST.NET					
TOKI	Reynolds	traynolds@att.net		✓			✓
✓ Dr. Marvin (Marion)	CHEATHAM	civilrights@verizon.NET					
✓ Antoinette	Ryan-Johnson	aryanjohnson@gmail.com		✓			
✓ Natalie	Segers	segersn1@tcnj.edu					
✓ TIMOTHY	HEATH	TIMHEATH99@GMAIL.COM					

*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: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730



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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annette	Ryan Johnson	City Union of Balto 2115 W. Howard St Balt MD 21218		✓			
✓ James	Parrish	31784 Kenilworth Drive Salisbury, MD 21804					
✓ Anne	Rosenthal	2804 Fox St. Baltimore, MD anne.c.rosenthal@gmail.com					
✓ Chrissy	Brown	Oakland park rd CMBrown247@gmail.com					
✓ Termaie	Dugger	idsaxoplantist@gmail.com					
✓ Lysett	McConville	3603 Ednor Rd Baltimore MD 21218 lysett182@yahoo.com					
Loraine	Arikat	1199 SEIU loraine.arikat@1199.org					

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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry	Fitzgerald	1817 Sulgrave Ave 21204 Physicians for Social Responsibility					N/A
✓ Heather	Johnson	Communities United					
Lysett	McConville	3608 Edmore Rd Baltimore Ap 21218 CEB Baltimore lyssett182@yahoo.com					
✓ James	Grant	5733 Jongsuillak					N/A
✓ Debra	Elfenben	Pratt Workers United					
✓ Kim	TRUEHEART	HOWARD PRATT			+		+
✓ CHRISTOPHER	CALABRESE	2919 ST PAUL ST #2FF BALTO MD 21218					

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				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sharon	Huffman	Maryland Inclusive Housing Shuffman@mih-inc.org			✓		✓
✓ Marcus Chestnut	Chestnut Bay	Marcusjc84@gmail.com					
✓ S Paige	Bacon -	6500 Alta Ave					
Chen	Ortiz	Balt. 21206					
✓ Maureen	Daly	3104 Barclay St Baltimore MD 21218 INCLUSIONARY HOUSING COALITION					
✓ Branchi	Kennamore	(667) 464-1843 620 Fallway Baltimore 21202 prandi@gmail.com					
✓ David	Yaffe	3204 Milford Ave. Balt. 21207 Friends of Enoch Pratt Free Library baltimorelibrarypotential@gmail.com					
✓ Rodette	Jones	4243 Pascal Ave Friends of Pratt Library Balt MD 21226					

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John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Samantha	Gowing	Public Justice Center gowings@Public-justice.org					
✓ Ashley	Daniels	4032 St. Augustine Ln Dundalk MD 21222 CIB Baltimore ashleymere@gmail.com					
✓ Carly	Dean	13 E Branch Ln. Apt C1 Balt 21202 skatepark carly.ann.dean@gmail.com					
✓ Minister Christina	Flowers	Belvedere Real Care Providers					
✓ Ruth S.	Smith	313 Rossiter Ave					
✓ SARAH	MYERS	5320 BRABANT RD SMYERS BALT, MD 21229 @GMAIL.COM					

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Bill

Name

Affiliation

23-0382 - Annual Property Tax -

Fiscal Year 2024

✓ Todd Reynolds

AFT-Maryland

23-0382 - Annual Property Tax -

Fiscal Year 2024

✓ Samantha Gowing

Public Justice Center

Annual Property Tax -

Fiscal Year 2024

✗ Mary Grant

Food & Water Watch, Baltimore Right to
Water Coalition

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Rianna Eckel

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✓ Loraine Arikat

1199 SEIU

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024 Budget

✗ Angela Purnell

N/A

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Yona Gorelick

N/A

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Jennifer Kunze

Clean Water Action

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Natasha Jarvis-Pillai

N/A

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Tracie Guy-Decker

N/A

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✓ Terrence Fitzgerald

Mt Washington, Jews United for Justice

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year

2024

Budget

✗ Rudy Malcom

N/A

Signed up in advance - Taxpayers' Budget

Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	X	Eugenie Jenkins and Brian Holmes	N/A
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	X		
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	+	Dave Arndt	N/A
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	X	Eric Smith	Representing Fully Fund the Library
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	✓	Sharonda Huffman	Maryland Inclusive Housing Friend of Full Funding for Our Libraries Community Group under Ms. Flo Valentine of Ednor/Gardens Lakeside Community
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	X	Eric Smith	
Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	X	Matt Stegman	Chesapeake Bay Foundation

City of Baltimore

Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Ways and Means

Thursday, May 25, 2023

6:00 PM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:

+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2331 222 2646, Password:

Public, Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?>

MTID=m660b8e19d29243a5632fc71116ff8127

23-0382: Annual Property Tax - Fiscal Year 2024 "Tax Payers Night"

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Robert Stokes Sr.

Excused 1 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0382

Annual Property Tax - Fiscal Year 2024

For the purpose of providing a tax for the use of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024; and setting the semiannual payment service charge for that period.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed.

TAXPAYERS' NIGHT

ADJOURNMENT