

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: 23-0381

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

Committee: Ways and Means

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

Hearing Date: Friday, June 2, 2023

Budget Hearings – Day Four – June 2, 2023

Department of Recreation and Parks

Time (Beginning): 9:00 AM

Time (Ending): 12:00 Noon

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 60 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Comptroller's Office

Time (Beginning): 12:05 PM

Time (Ending): 1:05 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Environmental Control Board

Time (Beginning): 2:30 PM

Time (Ending): 2:40 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Time (Beginning): 3:00 PM

Time (Ending): 4:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually



Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

Time (Beginning): 4:05 PM
Time (Ending): 5:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Time (Beginning): 5:05 PM
Time (Ending): 5:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 15 in-person
Approximately 5 virtually

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Time (Beginning): 6:00 PM
Time (Ending): 6:45 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

Time (Beginning): 7:25 PM
Time (Ending): 8:35 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 40 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance: Day Four

Eric T. Costello	Robert Stokes, Sr.
Sharon Green Middleton	Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Kristerfer Burnett	Ryan Dorsey

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 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.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers – **Day Four** (This is not an attendance record.)

- Reginal Moore, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Bill Henry, Comptroller's Office

- Paul O'Malley, Environmental Control Board
 - Dana Moore, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
 - Daniel Hymowitz, Office of Performance and Innovation
 - Catalina Rodriguez-Lima, Office of Immigrant Affairs
 - Shermiah Kerney, American Rescue Plan Act
 - Brian Lyles, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts
-

Major Issues Discussed

Department of Recreation and Parks

1. The representative from Rec and Parks gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*). He also talked about some of the Department's accomplishments and about the importance of investing in employees and having partnerships.
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Maintenance of Trails and Green Spaces
 - Is of concern
 - What are some ways you can improved this issue? Talk about some of your building strategies and training?
 - Is concerned about the workers who are doing the work on our trails; the staff for maintenance of same is inefficient!
 - If you had more funding how many more positions would you need to get the work needed done? **
 - Requested by member Dorsey: Provide the information above **
 - How can the Council help with preserving green spaces?
 - City Parks
 - Concerned about cars driving through the parks and about dogs brought to parks
 - Requested by member Cohen: Provide the plan and a commitment to reduce these issues in the Parks within the next six (6) to eight (8) weeks; by July 31, 2023
 - Completing Park Projects
 - Road closures – is of concern
 - Comments regarding having realistic timelines for completing projects near Druid Park Lake Drive
 - ARPA Investment in Parks
 - Want to be sure that the Map given to her (member Ramos) last year is consistent with this year Response: As increased costs are absorbed, Rec and Parks have to make some changes
 - Easterwood Skate Park
 - What is the plan for same?
 - Was the funding received from the State specifically for a skatepark? Answer: No; per Director Moore will provide a written update of the Plan.
 - Are there any strategies for the Park? Answer: We are strategizing what would be best for the Park.
 - Is there an audit review of your programs?

- Let's revisit the topic of funding for the skate park and it being in the FY2022 budget
 1. Talk about this
 2. How much did you spend on skatepark design and/or plan? **Answer: \$25,000**
 3. What was the feedback from the community regarding having a skatepark? **Response: First we have to fix our park and then address building a skatepark**
- Recreation Center for the 5th District
 - Are there any plans for a rec center in the 5th district? I have asked this same question for the past four to five years during budget season!
 - Who is your equity coordinator?
 - Yes, you are committed to the city but what about your commitment to the children in the 5th district! They have no recreational opportunities!
 - To Equity Coordinator: In your role have you looked at the 5th district for recreational opportunities?
- More stump remover equipment is needed
 - Are you removing all tree stumps when cutting down trees? **Answer: Yes**
 - Inventory list for removing older tree stumps and/or for the outstanding ones from previous years
 1. When will those stumps be removed?
- Programs for Youth
 - More programs are needed for our young folk! Everybody doesn't play football and baseball!
 - We need to have more conversations with our young folks about their needs and we needed funding for same
 - We need to find out what families need too!
- Security at Recreation Centers – is of concern
 - Can you talk about this issue
- Shortage of Lifeguards – talk about this
- Permits for Using Parks – talk about how the process can be more efficient
- Outsourcing contracts – is of concern
 1. Sometimes contractors do bad jobs!
 2. Have you looked at using sole sources to help move some of the contracts?
 - More apprenticeship programs are needed
 1. Have you connected with any of the career and trade high schools?
 2. Training must start in high school (Apprenticeship Programs)
 3. The state of Maryland have staff available to assist with Apprenticeship Programs!
 4. We need a municipal apprenticeship program (a training academy) and we need to work with schools to create same
 5. **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide a plan for how you plan to address these concerns regarding apprenticeship program(s)**
- Service Requests (SRT's) completed on time – talk about this
 - The additional seventeen (17) position, will they help with meeting your target for completing the requests on time?
 - Please take a closer look at the service requests before closing them altogether

- Horticulture (Service 650)
 - What is the plan for the assessment of trees because some are dead!
 - Comments made regarding climate change
- Recreation for Seniors – what is the plan for getting more seniors active?
- Requested by member Torrence: Provide a plan to identify funding for our young folks and for programs
- Renovation of Upton Boxing Center
 - Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide information requiring the cost for and the timeline for renovating the center
- When Permits Have Been Issued to Hold Events
 - Concern: homeless encampments are nearby an event(s) when a permit have been issued for holding events
 1. Talk about this issue and what you are doing to resolve same
 2. We are looking for an assurance that whenever a homeless encampment is near when an event has been approved and paid for that the encampment will be removed in a humane way! Response: Per CAO Leach and Director Moore, will do in conjunction with other needed partners
- Unpermitted Gatherings - is of concern
 - Do you have a strategy for addressing this issue for areas across the city?
- Concern: Keeping neighborhoods affordable and looking like him!
- Park Rangers
 - Where are you with hiring Park Rangers and once hired how will they be utilized?
- What is the status of the Walter P. Carter Pool?

Hearing recessed.

Comptroller's Office

1. The Comptroller gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Transfer of the Accounts Payable Division
 - What happens to the A/P backlog before the Division was placed under your office?
 - What happens to the backlog?
 - Are you still using temps to address the backlog? Answer: Yes
 - Office of Real Estate
 - Lots Owned
 - Mowing these lots – is of concern
 - Does the Office have regular maintenance for the lots?
 - What happens when you receive a request(s) for maintaining a lot(s)? Such as high grass, weeds or for tree removal?
 - What is your deposition plan for side lots?
 - How many side lots are there? Answer: Under 1,000
 - Are all of your Real Estate properties on line?

- Available Phone Lines
 - Have you audited the phone lines to see if there are any lines not being used? Talk about this

3. Hearing recessed.

Environmental Control Board

1. A representative for ECB gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc.
Some highlights of same were:

- Having a divergent program in lieu of citations
 - Talk about this
- How many community liaisons do you have? **Answer: Two (2)**
 - ECB is understaffed
 - Have you looked into getting more staff?
- Sanitation issues in the city – is of concern

3. Hearing recessed.

Office of Equity and Civil Rights

1. The representative for the Office gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc.
Some highlights of same were:

- Labor Trafficking
 - There were changes to the law at the State level regarding labor trafficking!
 - Have you received any complaints regarding this issue?
 - What is a typical example of some of your investigations pertaining to same?
 - How many investigations do you have now? **Answer: Three (3) and is in the process of getting one (1) more**
- Local Control Advisory Board
 - Where are you with the report?
 - Have the Board met since July 2022? **Answer: Yes**
 - Where are the Minutes?
 - **Requested by member Ramos: Provide the Minutes for all board meetings that were held after July 2022**
- Disability Commission
 - Are there any Minutes from the meetings?
 - Which councilmember is on the Board?
 - **Requested by member Porter: Provide an update on the works of the Commission**
- Starting Apprenticeship Programs – is a crucial need!
- Inspectors
 - If you need more Inspectors, the Council will help in any way they can!
- LGBTQ Community
 - Discrimination at hospitals and other facilities – is of concern
 - Talk about this

- Did you consult with the Board about the legislation in Annapolis surrounding Delegates Smith and Carter?
- Police Department Authority
 - Still waiting on a report from the Local Control Board on their position and/or recommendations regarding the City having authority over its Police Department
 - Would have love to had resolved all issues at the last session regarding this matter
 - This issue needs to be resolved during the next session!!
 - We need to start writing the Police Department into the City Charter
 - Talk about this – Answer: We must start with the responsibilities of the Law and Legislative Reference Departments
 - Requested by member Conway: Provide a clear written narrative for the next steps and timeline for the language to go into the City Charter regarding the Police Department
- Equity Plan
 - What is the plan for not just city government but for the entire city?
 - How can we make the City more equitable?
 - Talk about the scope of the Plan
 - Encourages the Office to look at the “policies,” which a lot have bought about inequities!

3. Hearing recessed.

Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

1. A representative for the Office gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Bloomberg
 - What is your relationship with Bloomberg?
 - Requested by member Ramos: Provide a list of the projects with Bloomberg
 - Data Analysts
 - Who is doing the data analysis within agencies?
 - Agencies should have data analyst coordinators to track data!
 - Requested by member Conway: Provide the top data person for each agency
 - Is a huge fan of data! How are you tracking progress and/or processes in agencies' day to day work? Such as: Complaints about water bills?
 - How does the applicable Department and/or Mayor know about these problems?
 - Do you agree we now have more data but it was not handled by Citi Stat?
 - Believe we are missing the opportunity to think out how the city is doing and for ways to fix same!
 - Performance Measurements Plan
 - When will it be published?

- Will any input come from the Council and will Council be able to provide feedback?
- If the Plan is to be submitted sometime in September, when will it come to the Council before or after it is published?
- Innovation Award
 - This award was received by the City of Baltimore
 - There are good things happening in city government!
 - Want you to continue to compete!
 - We must continue to highlight positive things that are happening in our city!
- Overall Establishment of the Office
 - Can you tell us how we saved over \$1.5 million that it costs us for your Office? (This is the same question I asked last budget year!)
 - At least you have gotten to the point where you give examples of savings; just give a few examples of some progress made!
 - Requested by member Schleifer: That mandatory training be available for all agencies

3. Hearing recessed.

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

1. A representative for Immigrant Affairs gave a PowerPoint presentation (*A copy is on file*).
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Staffing
 - Talk about your position and the duties associated with same
 - Talk about the services the Office provides
 - Comments regarding access to public hearings
 - Comments regarding surveys distributed
 - What languages are you using for the surveys?
 - Hiring contractors versus hiring permanent staff - is of concern
 - Agencies are not doing a good job of providing job notices!
 - Talk about these issues
 - How much ARPA funding did you apply for? Answer: Received \$4 million
 - What are you going to do with the funding run out?
 - Requested by member Ramos: Do you have any reports regarding the agencies that uses language software? If so, please provide

3. Hearing recessed.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Reconvening the hearing that was held on May 30, 2023

1. The Director gave a PowerPoint Presentations to discuss and/or present follow-up data requested at the previous hearing.
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - ARPA Funds
 - How much money did each organization receive?
 - Are you aware of any misuse of ARPA funds? Answer: Yes

- What is the process for when funds are misused?
- Where does the funding go back to?
- Are you re-evaluating any unneeded funds?
- Requested by Schleifer: Provide a list of all contractors who received ARPA funds
- What is the deadline for all funds to be spent?
- Concern: There may be call backs from the Federal government!
- Some councilmembers thought some of the funds could have been spent elsewhere
- Housing
 - Can ARPA funds be used for Housing for things such as:
 - Renovations, evictions, security deposits, and etc.?
 - Answer: Yes
- Clean Corp Program
 - Whose idea was this program? Was it the Planning Department: Answer: Yes
 - Who is in charge of the Program? Answer: Planning
 - Requested by Schleifer: Provide a list of how many employees are in each division of Clean Corp
- New Positions – Fiscal Officers
 - What will be the duties of the fiscal officers?

3. Hearing recessed.

Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA)

1. A representative for BOPA gave a PowerPoint presentation and talked about some of the Office's accomplishments in the past year. *(A copy is on file).*
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Comments:
 - Art is the core of Baltimore City and stands for what we are as creators!
 - Women and minorities are often forgotten!
 - This body stands in support of Art!
 - Comments and/or statements around government and organizations
 - I find it unusual that a Board Chairperson runs an organization
 - Are you compensated for your services: Answer: No
 - Is there a reason why no senior staff was placed in the position as Interim CEO?
 - Did you receive severance pay? Answer: Yes
 - Who approved the severance pay?
 - Is gravely concerned about decisions made over the past month!!
 - What was the timeline for when the organization starting looking for a CEO?
 - Is very excited to getting to know you!
 - Why didn't you seek out a permanent CEO from the beginning?

- When do you anticipate having a permanent CEO in place? **Answer: In the Fall**
- How many board members are there?
- **Requested by member Torrence: Submit the term limits for every board member**
- How frequently does your Board meet and are Minutes available?
- What are the bylaws for Minutes?
- **Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide all Minutes available from your quarterly Board meetings**
- Recent Report – Trademark
 - The recent report to trademark Artscape; this effort would be a violation of the city!
 - Wouldn't that effort have to go through the Board?
 - Have you revised your bylaws to ensure this will not happen again?
 - The Trademark issue was a slap in the Council's face
 - Artscape is near and dear to the City of Baltimore
 - Was the application filed by an outside counsel? **Answer: Yes**
 - How many pages was the actual application?
 - **Requested by member Torrence: Would like to see the approval process for the Trademark expenditures**
 - What is the process for the CEO to approve expenditures?
- Budget
 - What percentage of your budget does the city contribute? **Answer: 35 to 40%**
 - **Requested by member Torrence: Submit in writing how you came up with these percentages**
- Who is in charge of Farmers' Market?
- BOPA Website
 - When was the last annual filing to the IRS?
 - **Requested by member Torrence: Submit Form 990 for the past three (3) years**
- Book Festival
 - Where were these funds spent since the festival did not occur?

3. Budget hearings recessed; to reconvene on Monday, June 5, 2023.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see "red and yellow" highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 22, 2023

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, 2024 – Day Four Budget Hearings	Bill #: 23-0381
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Friday, June 2, 2023	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ATTENDANCE 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	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ajzenah	Green	3001 East Drive / BCRP Ajzenah.Green@baltimorecity.gov				
Reginald	Moore	3001 East Drive / BCRP Reginald.Moore@Baltimorecity.gov				
R	Brace	3001 East Drive / BCRP rbrace@baltimorecity.gov				
Dan	Coy	3100 Shop Rd. daniel.Coy@baltimorecity.gov				
ADAM	BOARMAN	2600 MADISON AVE. ADAM.BOARMAN@BALTIMORECITY.GOV				
Nicole	Green	3001 East Dr Baltimore, MD 21217 nicole.green@baltimorecity.gov				
Karen	Jordan	3001 East Dr Baltimore, MD 21217 Karen.Jordan@baltimorecity.gov				

*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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			For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jenny	Morgan	3001 East Dr Baltimore, MD 21217 Jenny.Morgan@baltimorecity.gov				
ed	Wheeling	Edward Loh 2600 Madison Ave Baltimore, MD 21217 Edward.Wheeling@baltimorecity.gov				
Daniel	Coy	3001 East Dr Baltimore 21217 Daniel.Coy@baltimorecity.gov				
Kenn	King	3001 East Dr Baltimore 21217 Kenn.King@baltimorecity.gov				
Ra	Brave	3001 East Drive Baltimore 21217 Ra.Brave@baltimorecity.gov				
Belvedere	Real Care	Providers Network				
Lisa	Petersen	918 Midway Rd 42832				

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			For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
TEELE	JOGT	520 CHARLES STREET AVE TOWSON MD				
Murdoch	Steph	905 W 37 th St				
Sosii/Chrissy	Brown	Randallstown.				
Bill	Henry	Comptroller's office				
PAUL	O'MALLEY	ECB				
Dana	Moore	Officer of Equity / Civil Rights				
Angel	St. Jean	25 W Fayeret St angel@theequitygranttrust.com				

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<u>ATTENDANCE ONLY</u>							
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com		✓	✓	✓	✓
Sharonda Huffman		MIH					
Dan	Hymowitz	Perf + Innovation					
JUSTIN	ELSZASZ	OPI/CDO					
Catalina	Rodriguez	Immigrant Affairs					
Brian	Lykes	BOP A					

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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

Friday, June 2, 2023

9:00 AM

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

+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2330 481 8991, Password:

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

MTID=mce80c8e15df061f2ce0b175679386912

23-0381: Budget Hearings FY2024

See attached schedule

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent 1 - Danielle N. McCray

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0381

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

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 2024 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed; to reconvene on Monday, June 5, 2023.

DAY FOUR (4) - BUDGET HEARINGS

Recreation and Parks, Comptroller's Office, Environmental Control Board, Office of Equity & Civil Rights, Office of Performance & Innovation, Office of Immigrant Affairs, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

ADJOURNMENT