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: farry.greene a 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: Monday, June 5, 2023

Budget Hearings - Day Five - June 5, 2023

Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success

Including Office of African American Male Engagement

Including Family League of Baltimore City

Time (Beginning): 9:00 AM 10:55 AM Time (Ending):

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person

Approximately 10 virtually

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

Time (Beginning): 11:00 AM Time (Ending): 11:55 AM

Location: **Council Chambers**

Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person

Approximately 10 virtually

Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM Time (Ending): 1:45 PM

Council Chambers Location:

Total Attendance: Approximately 25 in-person

Approximately 10 virtually

· ·	sing and Community Developm	nent
Time (Beginning):	2:30 PM	
Time (Ending):	4:40 PM	
Location:	Council Chambers	
Total Attendance:	Approximately 65 in-person	
	Approximately 10 virtually	
T. D. M.		
Live Baltimore	5 00 PM	
Time (Beginning):	5:00 PM	
Time (Ending):	5:25 PM	
Location:	Council Chambers	
Total Attendance:	Approximately 20 in-person	
	Approximately 10 virtually	
Sheriff's Office		
Time (Beginning):	6:00 PM	
Time (Ending):	6:45 PM	
Location:	Council Chambers	
Total Attendance:	Approximately 20 in-person	
	Approximately 10 virtually	
Statela Attaması Ot		
State's Attorney Of	7:00 PM	
Time (Beginning):	8:55 PM	
Time (Ending): Location:	Council Chambers	
Total Attendance:	Approximately 60 in-person	
I otal Attendance.	Approximately 10 virtually	
	Approximately to virtually	
Mayor's Office of N	Neighborhood Safety and Engag	ement
Time (Beginning):	9:25 PM	
Time (Ending):	11:50 PM	
Location:	Council Chambers	
Total Attendance:	Approximately 65 in-person	
	Approximately 10 virtually	
Committee Members	in Attendance: <u>Day Five</u>	
Eric T. Costello	Robert Stokes, Sr.	
Sharon Green Middlet	on Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer	
Kristerfer Burnett	Ryan Dorsey	
Danielle McCray	and the second	
Duig 11 2 2		
Bill Synopsis in the fi	ile?	yes no n/a
	he file?	
	? 	
_	ally recorded?	
	rtising/posting notices in the file?	
	ion to property owners?	
rinai vote taken		yes no n/a

Major Speakers - Day Five

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Debra Brooks, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success
- Andrey Bundley, Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement
- Demaune Millard, Family League of Baltimore
- Irene Augustine, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services
- Becky Witt, Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals
- Alice Kennedy, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Jason Hessler, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Annie Milli, Live Baltimore
- Sam Cogen, Sheriff's Department
- Ivan Bates, State's Attorney's Office
- Shantay Jackson, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Laura Larsen, Finance Department

Major Issues Discussed

Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS)

Including:

- Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME)
- Family League of Baltimore
- 1. The Directors of MOCFS, MOAAME, and the Family League of Baltimore began their department presentations noting programs and initiatives such as: (Copies are on file)
 - MOCFS
 - o Early voter registration at 10 high schools
 - Teen Spring Break Camp
 - Head Start Programing
 - Eviction Prevention Programs
 - Family League of Baltimore
 - Out of school time programing
 - Leveraging Maryland School Success money
 - B'more for Healthy Babies Program
 - MOAAME
 - Expanding into youth violence reduction
 - Connect 2 Success Program
 - o Squeegee Workers initiative
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Security Deposit Relief Program
 - Still participating in and looking for additional funding for the program.
 - Guaranteed Income Program
 - o Spending Data is not uploaded yet
 - o Complete data will be uploaded in 2024 & 2025 as a part of the pilot.
 - Department did report on narrative data from the program including:

- One participant was able to stop working 3 part-time jobs and entered a full-time position.
- A number of unhoused participants were able to secure housing.
- Participants was able to secure better housing for their family moving from a 1-bedroom to a 2-bedroom apartment for their children.
- One participant is now working to become a flight attendant.
- Wrap around services are not offered as a part of the program.
 Participants cannot be required to take part in City Services. But they are offered information regarding services available to them.
- Cap Center.
 - 15 new staff members are starting Monday.
 - o Approximately 13 positions are still open.
 - o Concern that some districts do not have a CAP Center (8th & 9th districts).
- The number of applicants for housing assistance.
 - o Factoring in duplicate request there are approximately 4,400 requests.
 - o \$5,800 per day expenditure for the program.
- Brothers' Keeper Program
 - o The program has a dedicated staff member from MOAAME.
 - o Program has been delayed in rollout due to the Squeegee Workers Initiative.
- Food insecurity
- Squeegee Worker's Initiative Status
 - Program has seen a reduction in the number of Squeegee Workers.
 - o Former workers have been connected to resources and services.
- Panhandling
 - MLK is currently being targeted with programs and resources which should be replicable across the city.
- Committee/councilmembers requests included:
 - A briefing on the offboarding of the current cohort of the Guaranteed Income Program.
 - A briefing on the sustainability of the Guaranteed Income Program for additional cohorts.
 - A request for the data report including a heat map for the Squeegee Worker's Initiative.
 - A request to provide the Council with the Strategic Initiative Plan for young men and boys of color from MOAAME.
- 3. Hearing recessed.

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

- 1. Director Augustine introduced her staff and began a presentation on her department noting: (A copy is on file)
 - Participation in FY 24 House America Goals supported by HUD.
 - Hiring several new positions in Outreach and Emergency Housing & Sheltering.
 - Outreach to Homeless Persons.
 - o Concentrating on Housing first.
 - 8 emergency shelters in Baltimore City
 - Goal is functional zero meaning that people who are experiencing homelessness are quickly rehoused.

- The department received \$75 million in ARPA funding.
 - o A limited amount has been spent at this time several projects are now rolling out based on that funding.
- A centralized platform for finding affordable housing.
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Hotels
 - The department is working to use hotels to replace over 200-bed spaces of congregate housing with non-congregate housing.
 - o The Council has not been informed of current hotels being negotiated with.
 - Third-party vendors
 - Healthcare for the Homeless a third-party vendor noted by Councilman Stokes who left Baltimore due to lack of funding.
 - Refusal of services and homeless residents who are encamped by businesses.
 - Squatters in foreclosed buildings
 - o Request to go initially to DHCD to inspect space.
 - o MOHS will engage with homeless residents living in that space.
 - Homeless encampment in Brooklyn
 - o No MOHS coordination in the area of sanitization.
 - Committee/councilmembers requests included:
 - Asking Administration to inform councilmembers who have hotels being negotiated within their district.
 - A quarterly briefing by MOHS for the committee.
 - What is the number of permeate housing units and their cost and funding?
 - o What is the amount of rental assistance distributed since 2021.
 - All outstanding payments owed to landlords to avoid eviction from FY 22 to now.
 - Asking for City payments to providers by July 30
- 3. Hearing recessed.

Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals (BMZA)

- 1. A representative for BMZA gave a PowerPoint presentation (A copy is on file). Some comments included:
 - Most of the budget is for salaries
 - Talked about laws and outcomes
 - About the type of participants in hearings
 - Policies may need to be updated and the City is the one needed to do so!
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Legal Counsel
 - Does BMZA have legal counsel? If so, who? Answer: Yes, but the position is vacant
 - What is the status for filling the position?
 - Does the Law Department provide you with legal counsel? Answer: Yes
 - o Operation of BMZA is of concern

- Your changed how you operate!
- Do you think these changes should have been communicated to the Council? Answer: We did not single-handedly change things
- Would like for the Board members to have reasonable terms limits
- Comment: Want to zero-in on what is happening today; not what happened twenty (20) years ago!
- Comments regarding "variances"
- Comment regarding "Director expressing her personal opinion"
- When a motion to reconsider is filed, what happens?
- Does anything (rules) need to be changed? Answer: Yes
- The administrative side of the Board needs guidance, this is very clear to me!
 - What can be done?
 - When the Deputy Mayor give the Board guidance will you be following it?
 - Please share the information with the Board about the topics and/or issued discussed today!
- These misappropriate allocation of variances is affecting lower income families!
- Talk about procedure equity versus sustainability equity!
- There is a need to change set backs to curtail unintended consequences

Comments

- Applying the law correctly is important
- Need to grow city and grow investments
- Recovery Homes
 - How do they get approved?
 - Talk about this
- Outreach Pertaining to Codes and Zoning
 - There is a need for some type of outreach for the community that comes from your office
 - It appears to be a battle between the Board and the community
 - Too much time to make decisions!!

o Concerns:

- Putting businesses in the right locations, such as:
 - Not having a recovery home across from a liquor store
 - And it's not just medical stores but dollar stores as well; popping up everywhere!
 - Having four (4) of the same type stores and/or businesses within walking distance is of concern
 - How do we fix these problems? Answer: Possible changes to the Code
- Basic Scenario:
 - All homes in a neighborhood are built the same, one resident develops a disability – talk about how he/she can address the disability which requires building a ramp on his/her home

- Does the Board recommend approval of same?
 Answer: It is the Board's discretion to approve/disapprove it.
- Where do you draw the line? When do you bring other things into consideration?
- o Issuing variances; discretion is out the window!
- Concern: Denial of application for those with disabilities
 - What do you base your approval of applications on? What criteria?
 - o This Board is denying our people; especially the disabled!
- When variances are denied how long do you have to wait to be reconsidered?
- Sound communication
 - Suggest that the Board consistently keep planning and communicate with the Council when needed; right now, the communication is not there!
- 3. Hearing recessed.

Department of Housing and Community Development/Live Baltimore

- 1. The Directors for DHCD and Live Baltimore both gave a PowerPoint presentation (Copies are on file).
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - o DHCD
 - o Demolishing Buildings
 - The aftermath and effects of the demolishment(s); talk about this, such as:
 - Dust in community
 - Maintenance of lots, etc.
 - o Vacant Properties (Service 749)
 - The disposition process, talk about this; are you going to meet your target in 90 days or less?
 - How do you prioritize which building(s) to get rid of first? The disposition process?
 - Nuisance Properties
 - What is the process for rescinding license(s) for same?
 - Why haven't certain licenses been revoked and/or rescinded?
 - The policy for citations issued for nuisance properties
 - How do you determine rather or not a property is a nuisance or not?
 - What is the process and where is the disconnect for same?
 - Requested by member Porter: Can you check on the property located at 845 Reinhard?
 - Requested by member Porter: Provide the process for the threshold used to rescind rental licenses
 - o Privately Owned vacant houses and garages is of concern; such as:

- Death in garages
- Snakes everywhere
- Safety Health issues and risks
- People can't enjoy their backyards!
- This is really a bad issue that have been going on over twenty (20) years!
- Buildings need to torn down and negotiations are needed to do same
- These issues should be at the top of the list!
- Some buildings are so degraded that you can't board them up
- Please considered this as a priority!
- Drone Technology
 - Can housing use this technology like other cities do? Talk about this!
 - Requested by member Porter: A briefing regarding the use of this type technology; briefing to be scheduled within the next sixty (60) days
- o Illegal Dumping is of concern
 - Is happening from people outside the city is of concern
 - How much is in your budget for cameras to address same?
- o Permitting Process is of concern
 - The process should be automated and significantly improved!
 - What can be done to improve same and how can positions be moved around to enhance same?
 - There is so much construction going on now without permits!
 - Is code enforcement and permitting going to be in the same system? Answer: Yes
 - How will the available dates be set up on your web page(s)?
 - Will case management be working from the same new system?
 - Do we have the positions needed and if not will you get them?
 - Requested by member Dorsey: Provide a matrix of how many positions are needed in order to perform efficiently
- Recycling Concerns
 - Concerned about the overflow of recyclables on properties now that collection is not done weekly!
 - Concerned about residents getting citations due to same; what is the possibility of giving refunds?
- Slum Landlords is of concern
 - Many of these landlords do not live in the city!
 - Why aren't we increasing the amount of funds needed for housing inspectors?
 - Requested by member Burnett: Provide an update on the new system used for rental licenses
- City's Right to Counsel Program
 - There is \$400,000 in the budget for this program; what do you need this program for?
- O Code Enforcement Employees being threaten when visiting certain neighborhoods is of concern

- o "Adopt a Lot"
 - How can the community themselves maintain a lot(s)?
- Vacancies Issues in City government
 - Concerned about issues such as:
 - Increased Fires
 - Issues with high grass
 - 311/911 complaints
 - Loss revenue and etc.
 - How are we aggressively addressing this vacancy issue? It is not just a DHCD problem!!!
- Investing in Properties
 - Have people been investing in their properties?
 - Of course, a permit is needed to do same!
 - What are you doing with the people who are trying to invest in properties?
- Coordination of Inspectors
 - Do they have phones? Answer: Yes, but scheduling is not performed by the Inspectors
- o Grant Management
 - The backlog in this office is of concern
 - Where are you with getting people their money?
 - Where are you with the reform of this office?
- o Applications for Lights is going up
 - In 2022 how many applications did you receive?
 - In 2023, thus far, how many applications did you receive?
 - Answer: Will research and report same
- o Live Baltimore
- Buy Back the Block Program
 - Talk about this program and about city residents who want to purchase homes
- Population Growth/Decline
 - Comment: We have structural barriers for growing our population
 - Black families are leaving the city!
 - What steps can we take to keep them here?
 - How do you appeal to them? Answer: "We have a Residential Retention Program which focuses on:
 - 1. School / Space / Support
 - 2. We also focus on sharing information too!
- o Do you have any Spanish speaking employees? Answer: No
- Hearing recessed.

Sheriff's Office

- 1. A representative for the Sheriff's 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:
 - Body Camera Schedule

- Talk about this
 - Response: We should have a records management system by end of the year. We are looking at potential vendors for when the system is ready. The State law set a two (2) year deadline
- Why not use BPD vendor? Answer: Might do that but have to evaluate independently based on needs
- o Maryland Department of Transportation
 - Talk about MDOT request for bus lane enforcement. Response: Yes, we are helping them based on availability
 - Have our DOT asked for help with bike lane enforcement? Response:
 No, but would if asked
- o Deputies' Salary
 - Do you think their salaries should be higher? Response: Yes, they are paid 20% less than Baltimore Police Officers
- O Do Sheriff deputies look for landlords who haven't registered? Response: Yes, but have no power to enforce right now.
 - Will the Sheriff evict if landlord not licensed? Response: If the court orders it
 - Do you work with eviction prevention groups? Response: Yes, but need to improve same
- Understaffed and/or Vacancies
 - Talk about this
 - Response: We are short staffed by 25 deputies and 30 court security employees
- Can Sheriffs issue citations for unleashed dogs? Response: Yes
- 3. Hearing recessed.

State's Attorney's Office

- 1. The State's Attorney 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:
 - Questions
 - Do you have a 5-year graph showing major crimes conviction rates? Answer: Yes, will send
 - Are plea deals shown as convictions: Answer: Yes
 - Can citations be issued as stand-alone minor violations? Answer:
 Yes
 - Citation model does not always have equitable results, how will SAO ensure equity? Answer: Focus on neighborhoods and track citation numbers and demographics
 - Will you be able to report statistics? Answer: Yes
 - How do you follow-up after citations? Answer: Summons are issued if no show at arraignment
 - Do you provide free services for individuals? Answer: Yes
 - What happens if someone is unable to pay fine? Answer: Court can work it out and have option to do community service

- What happens if someone on parole is given a citation?
 Technically possible, but can be flexible based on circumstances;
 community service before trial allows defendants to avoid
- How does the citation approach change BPD resources, needs and ability to address the open drug market? Answer: We try to steer drug users to treatment
- There was over 13,000 crimes reported so far in 2023, how does citation criteria relate (no outstanding warrants, violence, etc.)?
 Answer: Citation program targets individuals who need services not repeat violent offenders
- Increase in youth violence, what is SAO role in addressing same? Answer: Department of Juvenile Services is dealing with most cases, except major violence. Is working with DJA to collaborate more. Is concerned about lack of services and long wait time. The State law limits SAO options
- Is the Junior SAO program still active? Answer: Not now, but is looking to re-establish in the Fall
- Low level issues not in citation program such as illegal out of state car tags need to be addressed Answer: Proving Maryland residency is challenging! BPD Unit is working on this issue
- Vacancies
 - Talk about this. Answer: 8 supervisor vacancies and 17 others; plan to fill but is a limited pool of lateral attorneys; is reaching out and hiring law clerks, as well as national recruiting to bring here
 - What is your loss in staff compared to gains? Answer: Will send specific numbers
- Slum Landlords
 - Enforcement against these landlords need to looked into more
- Human Trafficking
 - Are you doing anything to coordinate victims' services? Answer:
 Is overhauling victim services in the office
- Sworn Federal Officers talk about this
 - Answer: Trying to and will build relationships with them
- 3. Hearing recessed.

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

- 1. The Director gave a PowerPoint Presentation. (A copy is on file) She also stated, "It is important that whoever takes over MONSE stay steady with the goals and mission of the Office."
- 2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Overall Funding
 - Grant funds seems to the majority of your funds; what happens when the ARPA funds whines down?
 - Succession and what comes next for MONSE
 - Director Jackson, how are you thinking about passing the baton?

Positions

- How many positions are in your Office?
- Are there any salary saving positions in your budget? Answer: No, per Director the Office has a total of 45 positions
- Talk about the growth (positions) of the Office
 - Can you talk about the growth of the Office through fiscal year 2026?

Victim Services

Talk more about this service; what does the expansion of these services look like?

Crime Reduction

- Talk about crime reduction for homicides
 - How is this being measured using ARPA funds?

Return on Investment

- Looking at our return on investment; the overall strategy; how should we measure if it is successful or not? What will it look like?
- Now that we are seeing a reduction; will this be the first years when we will see a 15% reduction?

Western District

- Western district being redistricted; talk about this
- Which communities moved in and which are moving out of the District; talk about this
- Non-fatal and homicide shootings are down in Western district; what time period is this over and which prior periods are you compared this with?
- Have you seen a culture shift in the Western district? People are trusting our Police Department again!
- Do you have a timeline to replace Ms. Jackson? Answer: Per CAO Leach, approximately 60 days
- o Displacement versus Resource Pull
 - Does resource pull in Police Department have effects in other districts?
- The homicide rate in the 14th district decreased by 45% but believe it is not due to resource pull
 - Talk about the work and resources in the Eastern district
- Director's Salary
 - What is the Director's current salary? Answer: \$223,000
 - What was the starting salary? Answer: \$195,000

ARPA Funds

- How much of ARPA grant dollars have been distributed?
- Who decides who get the awards?
- Out of the \$8.5 million, how much is for competitive grants?

Incarcerated Workers

- Talk about this
- Safe Return Home Plans talk about this
- What support are you offering women?

- o 911 Calls
 - Talk about this; diversions so 911 calls don't have to be a police situation
- Peace Mobile
 - What is this? What does it do? What is its purpose?
 - Was the vehicle donated to us? Answer: The vehicle is no longer being used; it is now sitting in the tow yard
- o Can you give us a status on the Neighborhood Police Strategy Plan?
- o Ring Camera Program
 - Rebates for the program is of concern
 - Do we have funds in BCIT for ring camera rebates? Per Ms. Larsen, will research and report back
- Safe Streets
 - Concern: Turnover and staffing in the 4th district talk about this
 - How are you thinking about retaining staff?
 - Do you have any data available for exit interviews?
- Safe Routes to School Program tell us a little about this program
- o Data Usage
 - Issues around data is always of concern to me
 - Every time data is used around public safety I will be asking questions
 - Data needs to be presented in an effective way
- 3. Budget hearing recessed; to reconvene on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

Was further study requested?	✓ Yes No
If yes, describe. Yes, see "red an	nd yellow" highlights in Major Issues Discussed.
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OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 – Budget Overview – DAY FIVE (5)		Bill #: 23-0381						
Committee: Ways and Means			Chair: Eric T. Costello					
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023			Time: 9:00 AM					
Location: Council	Chambers							
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			What is your position or this bill?		our ion on	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY			Testify		Against	S		
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Te	Б	Ag	Yes	S	
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sean * Simms	SMMS	WMEG The Outsiders						
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andrey	Bundley	4910 Park Herghs					4 4 5 5 6 7 1 1	
Angela	Whitaker	1731 EChase Street						
Dante'	Franklin	1731 E Chase St.						
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^{*}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/ or call: 410-396-4730



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First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	-e	For	Ag	Yes	S		
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	V	1	1	1	✓		
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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

Monday, June 5, 2023

9:00 AM Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2332 506 8889, Password: Public, Link: https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?
MTID=ma8f26d6e924502dbf7f0526523a4a71b

23-0381: Budget Hearings FY2024
See attached schedule

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

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 called to recess; to recovene on June 6, 2023.

DAY FIVE (5) - BUDGET HEARINGS

Office of Children & Family Success, Office of Homeless Services, Board of Municipal & Zoning Appeals, Housing & Community Development, LIVE BALTIMORE, Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement

ADJOURNMENT