



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 23-0180R

Informational Hearing – Summer 2023 Baltimore City Pool Closures

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Chaired by: Mark Conway

Hearing Date: August 23, 2023

Time (Beginning): 1:00 PM

Time (Ending): 2:30 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 32 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mark Conway	Kristerfer Burnett	Zeke Cohen
Phylicia Porter	Odette Ramos	Antonio Glover

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
Hearing televised 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.)

Reginald Moore – Executive Director Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Adam Boarman,- Chief of Capital Development Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Major Issues Discussed

- Chairman Conway opened the meeting and introduced the members in attendance.
- Chairman Conway invited Councilman Cohen to give opening remarks as the bill sponsor.
- Councilman Cohen gave a short presentation (included in the bill file)

- Chairman Conway at Councilman Cohen’s request opened the floor to public testimony:
 - Four residents came forward to testify (see attendance record in bill file)
- The committee heard reports from the agencies and then the floor was open to questions from the committee. Topics included:
 - Communication – How does the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) plan its communications?
 - The director noted that there were issues with communicating pool closures to residents this summer. Noting that there were evolving plans regarding Patterson park as the BCRP tried to get the pool operational.
 - Inspections of pools – do they occur and how often?
 - The BCRP noted the process for closing down and opening pools and how during those processes the equipment is inspected. They also noted that they are hiring two new positions for pool maintenance which will be year-round roles.
 - Schedule of replacing parts – does the BCRP wait for equipment to fail – or do they have a schedule to replace parts before they fail?
 - Has BCRP explored working with other entities to help alleviate pressure when pools close down?
 - What is the current projected completion date for Patterson Park Pool and Cherry Hill Splash Pad?
 - The Director noted that currently they are expected to be done in summer 24 but declined to give a more exact date.
 - Councilman Glover asked about the lack of access to pools in his district.
 - BCRP is working on a report looking at recreational gaps and how to address them.
 - Why were there no contractor bids the first time Patterson Park Pool went out for bids?
 - The BCRP could not explain this definitively and speculated that it may have been the type of contractors they were looking for (specifically ones with experience in dealing with pool)
 - Is procurement an issue – Why is there no central procurement process run through the Department of Finance leaving the department to do it for themselves?
 - BCRP did note that they have brought on procurement staff which has helped their process significantly.
 - There have been concerns reported that the pump technology being brought into Patterson Park may not be as reliable as some in other city pools.
 - This concern was brought to the BCRP director earlier and he is ensuring that it is the same type of pump that is in use at other pools.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes **No**

If yes, describe.

1. Can the feasibility of using some kind of text alert system for BCPR pools be evaluated? This could communicate closures for mechanical and weather issues.
2. Can pool ranking report and criteria be shared with the committee?
3. Time frame on all pool projects
4. Why are agencies running their own procurement shops without oversight from Department of Finance?

Committee Vote:

M. Conway:

K. Burnett:

Z. Cohen:

E. Costello:

A. Glover:

P. Porter:

O. Ramos:

Anthony Leva, Committee Staff

Date: August 24, 2023

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File