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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is to analyze and oversee the continuing operations, efficiency, and functions of Baltimore City government.

The Committee provides regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, periodically analyzes the budget reports and activities of those agencies, and maintains a high level of fiscal accountability in City government.

As a result of its analysis and oversight, the Committee will recommend reforms to improve the operations of any of these agencies; through legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary improvements.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020
2:30 PM**

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING/HEARING

Council Resolution #20-0213R
Informational Hearing – COVID-19 Emergency Spending

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BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Budget and Appropriations

Council Resolution: 20-0213R

Informational Hearing – COVID-19 Emergency Spending

Sponsor: Councilmember Pinkett, et al

Introduced: April 27, 2020

Purpose:

FOR the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Finance and other representatives from the Department of Finance to provide the City Council with an update on COVID-19 emergency spending.

Effective: On the date it is enacted.

Agency Reports

Office of the Mayor
Health Department
Baltimore City Public School System
Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office
Department of Finance

Analysis

Current Law

The Health Code of Baltimore City, outlines the rules, regulations and mandates for health related issues.

Background

On Thursday, May 17, 2020 the Department of Finance will come before the committee to give an update on the amount of emergency spending city government has used so far regarding the pandemic and to discuss its economic consequences; to include how the use of emergency funds are approved.

Per the primary sponsor of the Resolution, "I am looking forward to hearing about the processes and how we are moving forward and making sure all business are included in the process."

Also invited to attend and join in on the discussion will be representatives from the Mayor's Office, Health Department, Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office and the Baltimore City Public School System.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Council Resolution 20-0213R

Analysis by: *Marguerite M. Currin*
Marguerite M. Currin
Direct Inquiries to: 443-984-3485

Analysis Date: May 12, 2020

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AGENCY REPORTS

(None received as of
this writing)

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0213R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Pinkett, President Scott, Councilmembers Henry, Cohen, Burnett,
Bullock, Clarke, Middleton, Sneed, Stokes, Reisinger Schleifer

Introduced and read first time: April 27, 2020

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Office of the Mayor, Healthy Department, Baltimore
City Public School System, Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office, Department of
Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – COVID-19 Emergency Spending**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Finance and other representatives
4 from the Department of Finance to provide the City Council with an update on COVID-19
5 emergency spending.

6 **Recitals**

7 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City is in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic;

8 **WHEREAS**, The pandemic has caused a severe world-wide economic slowdown;

9 **WHEREAS**, The City will likely end this fiscal year with a \$42.3 million deficit due to the
10 financial consequences of the pandemic;

11 **WHEREAS**, The City will likely collect \$100 million less than anticipated during the fiscal
12 year starting in July due to the pandemic;

13 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City has tapped into emergency funds to pay for necessities to protect
14 our residents during this dangerous time;

15 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City will receive financial assistance for emergency spending related to
16 the pandemic from the federal government and the State during this crisis, but this financial
17 assistance will not be enough to offset the economic downturn the City is facing;

18 **WHEREAS**, The City Council needs to know the amount of emergency spending the Finance
19 Department has used so far regarding the pandemic and its economic consequences;

20 **WHEREAS**, The City Council needs to know how the Finance Department approves the use of
21 emergency funds;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
Strike-out indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 20-0213R

1 **WHEREAS**, The City Council needs to know both the dollar amount and the percentage of
2 emergency funds that has been directed towards minority businesses and firms as well as local
3 businesses and firms generally; and

4 **WHEREAS**, The City Council needs a list of all contracts awarded by the Finance Department
5 with emergency funding including the dollar amount of each contract, the name and address of
6 each business awarded a contract, and a description of the services each business awarded a
7 contract provides.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
9 Council invites the Director of the Department of Finance and other representatives from the
10 Department of Finance to provide the City Council with an update on COVID-19 emergency
11 spending.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 Director of the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.