



HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 20-0188R

Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion

Committee: Health
Chaired by: Kristerfer Burnett
Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 12:40 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 65

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
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 at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Clarke		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Henry		
Final Vote:.....	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- D’Paul Nibber, Health Department
- Derrick Hunt, Health Department
- Victoria Cargill, Health Department
- Natanya Robinowitz, Charm City Care Connection
- Harriet Smith, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC)
- Dr. Susan Sherman, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Michelle Wirzberger, Police Department
- Monique Brown, Police Department
- James Matz, Fire Department
- Tamika Gauvin, Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice
- Hilary Ruley, Law Department
- Rajani Gudlavalleti, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition

- Reverend Jim Muratone, St. Luke's Church
 - Alex Wilson, SPARC Center for Women
 - Dr. Adrienne Trustman, HealthCare for the Homeless
 - Owen O'Keefe, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Tricia Christensen, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Sam Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Cheryl Conrad, City Resident
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. President Scott, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. Some highlights of his conversation were:
 - The city is experiencing an overdose epidemic but it has not been addressed as a public health issue
 - Today we are listening to how work is done and/or transformed to address this issue
 - This hearing is about starting a conversation to address the issue
 - People who are struggling with addiction are human too!
2. Testimony was received from several representatives from city agencies and other organizations. Some highlights of their conversations and/or discussion were:
 - Several representatives from the **Health Department** testified; two PowerPoint Presentations were shown and discussed. **Copies are on file.**
 - The representative from **Charm City Care Connection** testified:
 - Talked about why springe care matters
 - Comment made: How did we build such a great health system that excludes the people with drug addiction?
 - Several representatives from the **Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition** testified:
 - Talked about what their organization does and what services are provided
 - Talked about his/her duties
 - Shared several "short videos"
 - Comments from people in the community
 - Comments from drug users, etc.
 - Talked about the importance of not re-using syringe supplies; if so, can lead to infection and/or diseases
 - Talked about outreach efforts
 - One representative shared information about how syringe exchanges are given to people who do not need the syringes for drug use; such as for hormonal reasons
 - Types of people other than drug users who use the program
 - Talked about how transgender people are being bullied and/or traumatized
 - Talked about policy management efforts
 - Talked about the importance of passing needed laws to address issue
 - Comments:
 - Highly values collaboration
 - Can do more with less through partnerships

- The representative from the **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health** testified:
 - Talked about her background and experience
 - Concerns:
 - Lack of access to service for those who use drugs; particularly for women
 - The impact of not having access to services
 - A multiple epidemic and now with COVID-19 is concerning
 - The syringe services program is vital and needed:
 - ❖ Many people are homeless
 - ❖ 20% of drug users experience hunger weekly!
- The representative from **St. Luke's Church** testified:
 - Talked about the coming together of stakeholders and what they as a community do to help
 - Operates as a community based church; including other churches (thru partnerships)
 - None of the services provided would be possible without the syringe services program; there are numerous partnerships and all surrounds the syringe services program
 - People continues to show up because the services are needed
 - It is because of the syringe services program that neighborhoods have seen a reduction of disposed syringes in communities
 - We have created spaces where they can:
 - Use a bathroom
 - Get a hot meal, etc.
 - These services have helped tremendously
 - Drug users should look within their own community to get services needed
 - Per Chairman Burnett, "Outreach in communities is important."
- The representative from **SPARC Center for Women** testified:
 - The organization is a harm reduction organization
 - Talked about what the organization does and/or about some of the duties of employees
 - We are here to today in agreement with President Scott, to come up with solutions to address this issue
 - Serves people who are marginalized! Stigma is disgusting and harms people!
 - Goal: To create safe spaces for people
- The representative from the **Health Care for the Homeless** testified:
 - Currently not providing syringe services but have applied to become a syringe services program provider
 - Have received an uptick for providing services to drug users
 - Organization currently provides services to approximately 10,000 people per year
- A **city resident** testified:
 - She talked about a conversation she had with a drug user who quoted, "I'm no different than anyone else, I just made bad decisions!"

- Some other comments she made:
 - We must help people who made bad decisions so they can get back to their families and community
 - Some of the steps needed are so small to be affective that will give strength needed!
 - We are all the same!
 - Being with people through hard times to help them take the next steps needed!
 - Several representatives from city agencies testified. Some highlights were:
 - Police Department
 - The Police Department does not have a big role in syringe services
 - The Department does not want to criminalize those with drug abuse problems; want them to get the right resources needed
 - The Department's employees are being trained on administering supplies when needed
 - The Department works closely with the Health Department
 - Fire Department
 - Talked about the steps the Department takes to form partnerships
 - The Department distributes kits to applicable people
 - The Department continues to use "outside the box" thinking to help
 - Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
 - Currently does not have a role in syringe services program but sounds like they should build some partnerships and is looking forward to doing so!
 - Would love to be a part of the conversation!
3. The chairman made comment, "Feedback from the public always help us as policymakers." Hearing concluded. Vote taken.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

K. Burnett **Yea**
 B. Henry..... **Yea**
 M. Clarke **Yea**
 E. Reisinger **Yea**
 I. Schleifer: **Out of Chambers**

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: October 5, 2020

cc: Bill File
 OCS Chrono File

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 9-29-20

m.m.c.

RESOLUTION #: 20-0188R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion

MOTION BY: Clarke SECONDED BY: Henry

- FAVORABLE FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
 UNFAVORABLE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Burnett, Kristerfer - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, Bill - Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarke, Mary Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisinger, Edward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TOTALS	<u>4</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, *KB* / *m.m.c.*

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin, Initials: *m.m.c.*



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Resolution – Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion	Resolution #: 20-0188R
Committee: Health	Chair: Kristerfer Burnett
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020	Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber *Virtual WebEx Hearing*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<i>See</i>	<i>Hearing</i>					
		<i>Notes</i>					

*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

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Health

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

10:00 AM Virtual Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code:
129 206 7559, Password: Public,
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e32f05fb39757e6d10a26a7189deb910a)
MTID=e32f05fb39757e6d10a26a7189deb910a

20-0188R
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 5 - Kristerfer Burnett, Bill Henry, Mary Pat Clarke, Edward Reisinger, and Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

20-0188R

Informational Hearing - Syringe Service Expansion

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Law Department to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the state.

Sponsors: President Brandon M. Scott, Bill Henry, Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Zeke Cohen, Ryan Dorsey, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Mary Pat Clarke, Sharon Green Middleton, Robert Stokes, Sr., Shannon Sneed, John T. Bullock, Edward Reisinger

A motion was made by Clarke, seconded by Henry, that City Council Resolution 20-0188R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Burnett, Henry, Clarke, and Reisinger

Out-Chamber: 1 - "Yitzy" Schleifer

ADJOURNMENT