

Baltimore City Council Health Committee
Informational Hearing on Overdose Prevention Sites
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 starting at 10:00am - 12:00pm

Supporting Materials For Committee

1. [Safe Consumption Spaces: A Strategy for Baltimore. Sherman, Susan. \(2017, Feb\)](#)
2. [Mitigating the heroin crisis in Baltimore, MD, USA: a cost-benefit analysis of a hypothetical supervised injection facility. Irwin, Amos \(2017, May\)](#)
3. [BRIDGES Video Series: What Will OPS Offer Maryland? \(2019, Jan\)](#)
4. [BRIDGES Two-Pager on Overdose Prevention Sites \(2020, Jan\)](#)
5. [BRIDGES: Overview of OPS and Community Organizing Strategies \(presentation\)](#)

Written Testimony (also sent in a zip file)

1. [Voices of Hope of Maryland](#)
2. [Sex Workers Outreach Project-Baltimore](#)
3. [Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America](#)
4. [Health Care for the Homeless](#)
5. [SPARC Center for Women](#)

Screen sharing:

- Rajani Gudlavalleti, BHRC (rajani@baltimoreharmreduction.org)
- Owen O'Keefe, BHRC (owen@baltimoreharmreduction.org)

AGENDA-- LIST OF SPEAKERS

Introduction: Committee Chair, Kris Burnett and Mayor-Elect Council President Brandon Scott

- Goal of this hearing: Provide general education on overdose prevention sites and potential impacts in Baltimore City and Maryland

Group #1: Local experts on harm reduction from the BRIDGES Coalition for Overdose Prevention Sites

1. Ricky Morris, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
2. Rajani Gudlavalleti, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
3. Dr. Susan Sherman, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
4. Ronald Phillips, Bmore POWER
5. Vickie Walters, Baltimore City Directorate and MATOD

Committee Questions to Panel #1 (suggestions from BRIDGES below)

- For the service providers on this panel, what is your relationship with your neighbors?
- Can you tell us more about what community members and other stakeholders shared during the outreach BRIDGES has conducted over the last few years?
- Can you share about the different models OPS can take on?
- What are COVID-19 precautions OPS are taking on around the world?

Group #2: Public Agency Reports

6. Michael Collins, State Attorney's Office
7. Baltimore City Health Department
8. Baltimore Police Department
9. Fire Department
10. Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (report)
11. Baltimore City Law Department

Committee Questions to Public Agencies (suggestions from BRIDGES below)

- Fire Dept:
 - 1. Evidence at sites around the world have shown that this intervention will reduce EMS calls. In your report you state that it would increase calls for service. Can you please clarify and provide any data you have to show that this would be the case?
 - 2. You also mentioned that sites could lead to perceived acceptance of illegal IV drug use and increased use of illegal substances leading to more overdoses. In sites established around the world there has been a decrease in overdose rates. Can you clarify this and also provide any data that you have that shows an increase in overdose rates and drug use when these sites are established?
- Health Dept: What benefits have you seen/experienced in working directly with people who use drugs and community programs that serve these populations?
- Law Dept and SAO: What effect would the federal case in Philadelphia have on establishing an OPS in Baltimore City?

Public Comment Section:

12. Stacey Jefferson, Behavioral Health System Baltimore
13. Owen O'Keefe, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (screen share: to play pre-recorded testimonies)
14. Mike Hilliard, Law Enforcement Action Partnership
15. Neill Franklin, Law Enforcement Action Partnership
16. Pastor Jim Muratore, St. Luke's Church on the Avenue
17. Rachel Moler, Open Society Policy Center
18. Tamika Spellman, HIPS DC
19. Gerardo Benavides, Youth Empowered Society
20. Amy Hecht-Zizes, Baltimore Psychedelic Society
21. Amos Irwin, Law Enforcement Action Partnerships
22. Andrew Szanto, DC DanceSafe
23. Shane Sullivan, HIPS DC
24. Jessica Martinez, HIPS DC
25. Greg Frailey, North Ave Mission and Red Shed Village
26. William Miller, Jr, Bmore POWER
27. Perry Hopkins, community member
28. Candy Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition