



**HEARING NOTES**

**Council Resolution: 20-0189R**

**Informational Hearing – Overdose Prevention Sites**

**Committee:** Health

**Chaired by:** Kristerfer Burnett

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020

**Time (Beginning):** 10:05 AM

**Time (Ending):** 1:20 PM

**Location:** Virtual "WebEx" Meeting

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 90

<b>Bill Synopsis in the file?</b> .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Attendance sheet in the file?</b> .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Agency reports read?</b> .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Video or audio-digitally recorded?</b> .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?</b> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Evidence of notification to property owners?</b> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Final vote taken at this hearing?</b> .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<b>Motioned by:</b> .....	Councilmember Henry		
<b>Seconded by:</b> .....	Councilmember Schleifer		
<b>Final Vote:</b> .....	Favorable		

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Rajani Gudlavalleti, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Ricky Morris, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Ronald Phillips, Bmore POWER
- Vicki Walters, Baltimore City Directorate/MATOD
- Michael Sullivan, State's Attorney's Office
- Brittney Spencer, Health Department
- Dr. Susan Sherman, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- D'Paul Nibber, Health Department
- Michelle Wirzberger, Police Department
- Michael Sullivan, Police Department
- Hilary Ruley, Law Department
- Stacey Jefferson, Behavioral Health System Baltimore

- Owen O’Keefe – Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
  - Mike Hilliard, Law Enforcement Action Partnership
  - Neill Franklin, Law Enforcement Action Partnership
  - Pastor Jim Muratore, St. Luke’s Church
  - Rachel Moler, Open Society Police Center
  - Jessica Martinez, HIPS DC
  - Gerardo Benavides, Youth Empowered Society
  - Amy Hecht-Zizes, Baltimore Psychedelic Society
  - Amos Irwin, Law Enforcement Action Partnerships
  - Andrew Szanto, DC DanceSafe
  - Shane Sullivan, HIPS DC
  - Kim Wireman, Pal Recovery
  - Andrew Bell, Speaker
  - Candy Kerr, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
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### **Major Issues Discussed**

1. President Scott, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks. Some highlights of his conversation were:
  - Explained why the hearing was called
  - Substance Abuse – things are not working! We need to revisit this issue
  - Those struggling with addiction are not less than human!
  - Too many overdoses; have to be serious about our approach to this issue
  - This is an information hearing; talked about why the sites are needed
  - Here today to learn more about how to improve things; the way things are being done now is broken
  - We must take the harm reduction approach
2. Several PowerPoint presentations were given and the committee received several written testimonies. Testimony was received from representatives from the city’s Health and Police Departments and from over twenty (20) other representatives from different organizations. Some highlights of their conversations and/or discussion were:
  - **Group #1 Speakers – Local experts on harm reduction from the BRIDGES Coalition for Overdose Prevention Sites:**
    - Talked about the services provided by BRIDGES
    - **Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition**
      - ❖ Services provided by the Coalition
      - ❖ Harm reduction is about empowerment and helps people to understand they can continue on with his/her life through their addiction
    - Comments:
      - ❖ Is glad to see so many people in government embracing harm reduction
      - ❖ Some discussed substance abuse programs and services provided
  - **Group #2 – Public Agency Reports/City Agencies**
    - **State’s Attorney’s Office**
      - ❖ **Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)**
        - ⬇ Background and practices of OPS sites around the globe



- Questions:
    - Where does the law have to be changed in City government to establish these sites?
    - Does Philadelphia have OPS sites? Answer: No, not yet.
    - Tell us a little more about OPS sites and what they would look like in the city!
    - What is the Health Department's plan for establishing these centers? Such as pilots?
  - Concern(s)
    - The city's ability to authorize OPS sites
4. The very last speaker said, "Please take the next move (City Council), the next step forward for the stake of our country, state and city."
  5. The chairman gave closing remarks, "President Scott, the primary sponsor of this Resolution will be Mayor soon and I am excited to move forward. But, more work is needed on policies and there is still more work to do on the state and federal levels." 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 ..... **Out of Chambers**  
 E. Reisinger ..... **Out of Chambers**  
 I. Schleifer: ..... **Yea**

*Marguerite M. Currin*  
 Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: November 25, 2020

cc: Bill File  
 OCS Chrono File

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 11-24-20

RESOLUTION #: 20-0189R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Informational Hearing – Overdose Prevention Sites

MOTION BY: Henry      SECONDED BY: Schleifer

- 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> out of office	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisinger, Edward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> out of mtg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, IK B km.m.c

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin, Initials: mm.c.



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> <b>Council Resolution</b> – Informational Hearing – Overdose Prevention Sites	<b>Resolution #:</b> 20-0189R
<b>Committee:</b> Health	<b>Chair:</b> Kristerfer Burnett
<b>Date:</b> <b>Tuesday, November 24, 2020</b>	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM
<b>Location:</b> <b>Virtual WebEx Meeting</b>	

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 hearing 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

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Tuesday, November 24, 2020

10:00 AM  
Virtual Webex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code:  
173 452 5840, Password: Public,  
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0b7645cfcadabef3a782da2653681771)  
MTID=e0b7645cfcadabef3a782da2653681771

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20-0189R  
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

20-0189R

##### **Informational Hearing - Overdose Prevention Sites**

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 provide information about overdose prevention sites and how they could be established in Baltimore City.

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

**A motion was made by Henry, seconded by "Yitzy" Schleifer, that this City Council Resolution 20-0189R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Burnett, Henry, and "Yitzy" Schleifer

**Out-Chamber:** 2 - Clarke, and Reisinger

#### ADJOURNMENT