CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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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 |
| Bill Synopsis in the file? |

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

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:
 - o 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
 - o 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

- DPS sites: connects people, reduces the spread of diseases, complements harm reduction, helps the war on drugs
- Comment: Looks forward to working with City Council on this issue
- Health Department
 - ❖ Gave a PowerPoint Presentation a copy is on file
 - Comments: Regarding how people are advocating for needle exchange
- Police Department
 - Comments: The Department stands by their report and looks forward to being at the table on this issue
- Law Department
 - ❖ The Department supports the informational hearing but this issue pertains to state and federal laws; laws that would need to change in order to more forward for getting OPS sites
- Public Testimony/Comments
 - OPS sites can help save lives
 - Talked about some of the studies conducted for OPS sites
 - While working with a team, they produced a cost benefit analysis for OPS sites
 - OPS sites don't increase drug use but instead provides a safe place for users!
 - A system is needed for all in need
 - Overdoes are significantly up in the City
 - All speakers supported having OPS sites
 - One speaker gave three (3) points
 - * Concern: Officers being stuck with needles
 - OPS sites will reduce the number of overdose calls police receive
 - ❖ OPS sites will allow users to go to a specific setting to use drugs
 - Supports OPS sites, "this is an important issue"
 - Talked about his experience as a police officers and about his experience visiting OPS Centers in other areas of the world (different countries)
 - Our health system should be the #1 priority in our country!
 - Baltimore need to take the lead on this issue
 - We are waiting for our city leaders to more forward!
 - Harm reduction is working
 - OPS sites can only make things better!
 - Talked about the affects COVID has have on users
 - ❖ More services and programs are needed more than ever due to COVID
 - Concern: the importance of gender in OPS sites
 - Lives loss due to overdoses can be very traumatic
 - Goal is to reduce all stigmas around drug users
- 3. Some of the questions, concerns, and/or comments from committee members were:
 - Comment(s):
 - o The needed exchange program is a good thing and it sounds like this program will be too!
 - o Calls police responds to:
 - The officers are not trained to respond to some situations
 - Other professionals should be able to respond to some of these situations
 - Must relieve our officers from responding to these type calls so they can be available to address other emergency calls

- Questions:
- o Where does the law have to be changed in City government to establish these sites?
- o Does Philadelphia have OPS sites? Answer: No, not yet.
- o Tell us a little more about OPS sites and what they would look like in the city!
- o What is the Health Department's plan for establishing these centers? Such as pilots?

Date: November 25, 2020

- Concern(s)
- o 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. | | | | | | |
| Comm | ittee Vote: | | | | | |
| K. Burnett | Yea | | | | | |
| B. Henry | Yea | | | | | |
| M. Clarke | Out of Chambers | | | | | |
| E. Reisinger | | | | | | |
| I. Schleifer: | | | | | | |

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Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

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: Schleider **FAVORABLE** FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION **UNFAVORABLE** NAME YEAS NAYS ABSENT **ABSTAIN** Burnett, Kristerfer - Chair Henry, Bill - Vice Chair Clarke, Mary Pat Reisinger, Edward Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy" TOTALS

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, | R B m. m. C



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

| Subject: Council Resolution - Informational Hearing - Overdose Prevention Sites | | Resolution #: 20-0189R | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|----------------|---------------|---|----|---|--|--|
| Committee: Health | | Chair: Kristerfer Burnett | | | | | | | |
| Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 | | | Time: 10:00 AM | | | | | | |
| Location: Virtual WebEx Meeting | | | | | | | | | |
| PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY | | What is your position on this bill? | | our ion on | Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?* | | | | |
| CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY | | Testify | For | Against | Yes | 0 | | | |
| First Name | Last Name | Address / Organization / Email | 1 | 표 | ď | λ. | ž | | |
| John | Doe | 400 N. Holliday St. Johydoenbmore@yahoo.com | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| | | See hearing | | | 11 | | | | |
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^{*}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/ 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, November 24, 2020

107PRIAMVebex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 173 452 5840, Password: Public,

> https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php? MTID=e0b7645cfcdadbef3a782da2653681771

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