



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO21-0007

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth  
Chaired by: Robert Stokes, Sr.

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021  
Time (Beginning): 5:00 PM  
Time (Ending): 7:05 PM  
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting  
Total Attendance: Approximately 65

Committee Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes, Sr. James Torrence  
John Bullock Sharon Green Middleton  
Zeke Cohen Phylicia Porter

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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Dion Cartwright, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (BCYF)
- Davyon Love, BCYF
- Kerra Ritter, BCYF
- Dyson Davidson, Beadly Speaking Jewelry
- Nehemiah Hall, African Youth Alchemy
- Cydni Purdie, Student

- Ras Tre Subira, Speaker
  - Corey Booker, Student
  - Monique Cox, DewMore Baltimore
  - Melissa Schober, Speaker
  - Ciara Huff, Speaker
  - Torbin Green, Speaker
  - Mary Alexander, Unique Fabrics
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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Several representatives, on behalf of the Children and Youth Fund testified. Some highlights of their conversations were:
  - *Talked about the background and history of the Fund*
  - *Talked about the board members*
  - *Talked about disparities and the need for racial equity*
  - *Talked about the grant and operational work of the organization*
  - *A PowerPoint Presentation was given. A copy is on file.*
    - *The presentation should address some of the key questions asked, such as:*
      - *Who got funding (grantees)*
      - *Demographic for who serves on the Board by race and gender*
      - *How funds are leveraged and maximizing the use of funds*
      - *How BCYF supports grantees*
      - *The impact of COVID/pandemic*
2. Some grantees who benefited from the Fund testified. Some highlights from their discussions were:
  - The representative from Beadly Speaking Jewelry talked about:
    - How the program works
    - How she works with students (jewelry making)
    - The program helps students to become more creative!
  - The representative from African Youth Alchemy talked about:
    - How the program works
    - His partnership with schools
    - He allowed three (3) of the students to testified. They talked about:
      - Travel experience while visiting Africa
      - How program have helped them in life thus far
      - Photography use
      - Received training in photography, film and entrepreneurship
      - Learned how to start a business; how he has used the skills learned and about the opportunities gained from being in the program
  - The representative from DewMore Baltimore talked about:
    - What the organization does
    - Currently serves as a mentor
    - About how BCYF has impacted the work of the program, and
    - Is grateful for the support of the BCYF
    - She also showed a short video

3. Four (4) speakers gave public testimony. Some highlights of same were:

- Concerns:
  - Availability of bylaws is lacking – is of concern
  - No account of public dollars
  - More notice is needed when the Board schedule meetings!
  - Would like the members of the Board to increase as well as would like to serve on it.
- A representative from Casa Baltimore talked about its program and about how many juvenile cases they have worked with and that they serve approximately 109 children.
- A representative from St. Francis talked about its program and about how the BCYF assists with the program
- A speaker also asked:
  - How do you determine what is a “Black led organization?”
  - The percentage of board members?
  - Who are considered “the front line staff?”

4. The committee members asked questions, made comments, and etc. Some highlighted topics of discussion were

- *Thanked the previous Mayor, Bernard Young for starting the Fund and stated, “The Fund have helped but we still have a way to go! And, we have not seen any corruption in administering the fund.”*
- Youth Participation
  - *Comment: The youth are the true fiscal agency and should be 1/3 of the Board members*
  - *Can you talk about youth participation?*
- Sustainability
  - *How are you thinking about transitioning grantees off funding since it is not permanent?*
  - *Sustainability within communities*
    - *Consolidation of non-profits (leveraging)*
      - *Are you considering some of the smaller non-profits?*
- Comments
  - *Thanked the BCYF team and all who participated in the Presentation today; it is very well organized!*
- Racial Equity
  - *Can you share with the public why it is important that black children are being served by the Fund?*
  - *Why do you the Fund is under more scrutiny than other Funds?*
- The Organization
  - *Why do your numbers for the total of organizations served differ from what the public thinks?*
  - *What happens next and how will it be rolled out and/or implemented?*
  - *What are some of the lessons learned that will help moving forward?*
  - *How do you track the Funds that are distributed? Do you have this data and/or outcomes?*
  - *There is some criticism in the community because some organizations/programs were not selected and some organizations/programs were selected twice. Please talk about this.*

- *Do you make sure that one group does not apply for more than one organization/program?*
- *Prepaid Cards – can you talk about this program?*
- *Requested by Chairman Stokes:*
  - *Can you make sure all council members get a copy of the answers to the questions sent to you prior to the hearing as soon as possible (Addressed to: Dayvon Love)*

5. The hearing was called to recess.

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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

1. See request by Chairman Stokes **highlighted in red**, in #4 of the “Major Issues Discussion Section” above.
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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 7, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Legislative Oversight</b> – Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update	LO 21-0007
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: <b>Thursday, April 29, 2021</b>	Time: <del>11:00 AM</del> <b>5PM</b>
Location: <b>WebEx Meeting</b>	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



Testify

What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*
For	Yes
Against	No

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johngoebmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See hearing Notes					

\*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

### Education Workforce and Youth

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Thursday, April 29, 2021

5:00 PM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 129 568 4023, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e185d263cff542f277698d085a1dfe10e)  
MTID=e185d263cff542f277698d085a1dfe10e

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This hearing was initially scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**Present** 6 - Robert Stokes Sr., John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylcia Porter, and James Torrence  
**Absent** 1 - Antonio Glover

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

LO21-0007

##### **Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund**

For the purpose of holding a committee hearing to give updates on the status of and/or activities associated with the fund.

Hearing recessed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**