



HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0027R

Informational Hearing - Illegal Dumping

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: May 5, 2021

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM

Time (Ending): 11:45 AM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 50 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter James Torrence Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [] YES [X] NO [] N/A
Motioned by:
Seconded by:
Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Lisa Allen, Office of Information and Technology
Marcia Collins, Department of Public Works
Alice Kennedy, Department of Housing and Community Development
Stephanie Murdock, Department of Housing and Community Development
Lt. Colonel Monique Brown, Baltimore Police Department
Michelle Wirzberger, Baltimore Police Department
D'Paul Nibber, Department of Health

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and explained the Committee's plan for the proceedings.
2. Councilman Torrence discussed the problem of illegal dumping and the need to innovate and find new ways to address the problem.
3. Lisa Allen discussed the 311 process for illegal dumping related service request intake and referrals to agencies for investigation and cleanup. Alice Kennedy and Stephanie Murdock presented on the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) efforts to prevent and investigate illegal dumping (presentation in file). Marcia Collins explained the Department of Public Works' (DPW) services and efforts related to illegal dumping (presentation in file). Lt. Colonel Monique Brown discussed the Police Department's role in responding to illegal dumping and connections between illegal dumping, crime, and police operations. Representatives for the other agencies summarized the written reports.
4. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
 - a. Have the agencies seen any measurable results from education and outreach efforts? Marcia Collins explained that DPW has not seen measurable changes in illegal dumping related to education programs.
 - b. Does DPW track results of its education campaigns? DPW has tracked results for specific campaigns, but measuring changes in behavior is difficult.
 - c. Could DHCD embed investigators with DPW crews so investigations and cleanup can be started at the same time? DHCD likely does not have the staffing capacity at this time, but the agencies can explore the option.
 - d. Can the City store personal property left out from evictions to reduce dumping and assist people losing their homes? Landlords are currently required to store personal property for a period of time and then may dispose of it, but it should not be placed in public rights of way.
 - e. How many vacant CDL driver positions does DPW have and is the City paying enough to retain CDL drivers? DPW will provide the vacancy report. It has been interviewing and hiring drivers recently. Retention of drivers for roll-offs and trailers has not been a problem. Turnover is higher for drivers of collection trucks. DPW has been adjusting salaries to be more competitive, but generally cannot keep up with private sector.
 - f. Has DPW provided information about City tax credits to eligible staff? Marcia will check with Human Resources staff and follow up.
 - g. What would it cost to move illegal dumping enforcement to DPW? The agencies will have to review the costs and follow up.
 - h. Can the City have bulk trash collection days? Expanding bulk trash collection would take additional resources.
 - i. When will bulk trash pickup resume? DPW is hiring the needed drivers now and will resume pickup as soon as possible (no set date now).
 - j. What can the City do to prevent littering in medians? Door to door outreach in areas with known problems may be appropriate. DHCD cameras are usually motion activated, which would not work for medians. There may be other camera options.

- k. Can DPW provide more than 4 roll off dumpsters for community groups while bulk trash pickup is unavailable? It would be difficult for DPW to provide more dumpsters right now, but it can look into it for the future.
- 5. Chairwoman McCray explained that the Committee will reconvene at a later date for further discussion and recessed the hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes **No**

If yes, describe.

The relevant agencies will provide the following information to the Committee:

- 1. Whether it is feasible to embed DHCD investigators with DPW crews and what resources would be required to do so.
- 2. The changes DPW has made to CDL driver pay ranges.
- 3. Confirmation that DPW has informed its workers about the property tax credit for certain city resident employees.
- 4. The estimated costs to move illegal dumping enforcement responsibility from DHCD to DPW.

Committee Vote:

D. McCray:

J. Bullock:

M. Conway:

R. Dorsey:

P. Porter:

J. Torrence:

I. Schleifer:



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: May 6, 2021

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File