



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0080

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello and in part other Committee members as needed
Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 – Day One – Budget Hearings

Finance/BBMR

Time (Beginning): 9:10 AM
Time (Ending): 10:55 AM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 65

Capital Budget

Time (Beginning): 11:10 AM
Time (Ending): 12:00 NOON
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 55

Stimulus Spending/American Rescue Plan

Time (Beginning): 12:30 PM
Time (Ending): 1:50 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

Time (Beginning): 2:30 PM
Time (Ending): 3:35 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Baltimore City Information Technology (BCIT)

Time (Beginning): 3:40 PM
Time (Ending): 4:30 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 50



BCIT/Broadband/Digital Equity/Chief Data Officer

Time (Beginning): 4:30 PM
Time (Ending): 5:05 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Department of Human Resources/Office of Labor Commissioner

Time (Beginning): 6:05 PM
Time (Ending): 6:45 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 35

Health Department

Time (Beginning): 7:15 PM
Time (Ending): 8:55 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 60

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello	Kristerfer Burnett
Robert Stokes, Sr.	Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray	Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:			
Seconded by:			
Final Vote:			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Henry Raymond, Department of Finance
- Daniel Ramos, Mayor's Office
- Chris Ryer, Planning
- Robert Cenname, Department of Finance/BBMR
- Aaron Moore, Department of Finance
- Chris Shorter, Mayor's Office/City Administrator
- Dan Hymowitz, Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

- Todd Carter, Baltimore City Information Technology
- Lisa Allen, 311 Operation Unit
- Mira Green, Department of Finance
- Jason Hardebeck, Broadband and Digital Equity
- Justin Elszasz, Chief Data Officer
- Quintin Herbert, Department of Human Resources
- Deborah Moore-Carter, Office of the Labor Commissioner
- Letitia Dzirasa, Health Department
- William Kellibrew, Health Department
- Mary Beth Haller, Health Department
- Jessica Speaker, Health Department
- Heang Tan, Health Department
- James Macgill, Health Department
- Jennifer Martin, Health Department
- Adena Greenbaum, Health Department
- Alexandra Smith, Health Department

Major Issues Discussed

1. Several agency heads and their staff came before the committee/council member for day one (1) of the budget hearings.
2. PowerPoint presentations were given by all agencies. **Copies of all presentations received are on file.**
3. After each agency head concluded his/her presentation, the committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:

Finance/BBMR

○ **Accounts Payable**

- Concern: overdue invoices/prompt payments
- How many vacancies are in your procurement unit? **Per Finance: Will follow-up with a response**
- Who is in charge of your procurement unit? **Answer: Keisha Brown**
- Why are invoices taking so long to process?
- Concern: Making sure black and brown small businesses are getting paid promptly
- **Request: Provide something in writing showing payments can be made promptly; a "prompt payment initiative."**

○ **Damages to City Properties – is of concern**

- Where is the information regarding these damages? **Per Finance: Will follow-up with a response**

○ **Workday Issues**

- Where are we with these issues?

○ **Paying Taxes and Water Bills**

- Are the processes for paying taxes or water bills the same since the pandemic? **Answer: No, no one is allowed in city buildings yet.**
- Comment regarding the importance of customer service

- **Tax Credits**
 - Can we (City Council) get a map to see where tax credits are applied?
- **Contractual Services**
 - How are we keeping our contracts/contractors accountable?
 - How are we making sure we are getting the best service for our dollars?
 - What matrixes are we holding them accountable too on a day to day and month to month basis?
- **Real Estate Transaction – Backlog**
 - Talk about where we started, where we are and where we expect to be
- **Request:**
 - **Provide a list of the services that are impacted or modified by COVID.**
- **Fiscal Integrity**
 - Talk about your investigation process used to prevent fraud abuse
 - How is fraud and/or abuse reported?
 - Are we still testing employees for the use of marijuana?
- **Unclaimed Funds**
 - What happens to these funds over time?
- **Study – Procurement System**
 - Where is the request for proposal for this study?
 - What will the study consist of?
- **Service 707 – Risk Management**
 - Comment: Is concerned about the general safety of employees and I don't see a matrix for it!
 - **Request: Next budget cycle – would like to see some indicator(s) for same**
 - Is there a broader scope for the Office other than for employees' safety?
- **Service 701 – Printing Services**
 - Are we providing printing services for Baltimore City Public Schools?

Capital Budget

- **City's Borrowing Capacity**
 - Can the amount be increased so we can borrow a bit more?
- **Capital Budget Process/Capital Improvement Plan**
 - Concern: Equity surrounding the Capital Improvement Plan
 - How are decisions made for programs through the capital budget?
- **Training**
 - Do you offer training to employees on racial and culture issues?

Stimulus Spending

- **The Chairman explained to the attendees while a hearing was being held on this topic**
- **Use of Funds Received**
 - Can funds be used for planting trees and trimming down the backlog?
 - Can funds be used to prevent the upcoming water billing increase?
 - Can funds be used toward permanent housing and construction projects?
 - What are the infrastructure restrictions?
 - Application Process
 - Is the same application used for agencies and the community associations?
- **Equitable Neighborhood(s) Development**
 - Concern: Investing in areas that have not been invested in!
 - **Request: Can you provide a map of where the American Rescue Funding will go?**

- **Hiring Levels**
 - DOT – hiring freeze and inadequate salaries – is of concern
 - Can we remove the hiring freeze and maybe increase some salaries?
- **New Office/New Positions**
 - Grants to small businesses
 - Grant writing can be difficult; can you tell us how the new office will help the small businesses with grant writing and etc.?
 - Who will the new director report to? **Answer: City Administrator**
 - When will the positions be filled? Were the positions advertised before the approval of the budget?
 - Positions for the new office is to be funded with the ARP funding; is this correct? **Answer: Yes**
 - Are they permanent positions? **Answer: Positions will go away when the funds ends**
- **CARES Money**
 - **Request: Can you provide a map for how this money will be spent?**
- **Will some of the American Rescue funds be used to closeout fiscal year 2021?**
Answer: Yes

Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

- **CitiStat Meetings with Agencies**
 - Walk us through the process and the outcomes expected
 - What matrixes are used to measure the success of the agencies?
 - Comment: I wonder if CitiStat really knows what is going on in city agencies!
 - Comment: I wonder if CitiStat is reviewing the right information! Accurate information!
- **Police Recruit Stat**
 - What are you doing in this area and what are you learning?
- **Clean Stat**
 - Comment: the City is dirtier now than in the past! What are you learning from the Clean Stat meetings?
- **Housing Stats and Equity Stats**
 - Would like to see status of housing and equity
- **Request: Would like briefings and/or feedback on the meetings held.**
- **Remote Working**
 - Have working remotely helped city government?
- **Performance Measures**
 - When was the last time your office reviewed its performance measures to make sure they are in line with the agencies?
 - Performance measures should align with agencies and agency budgets
 - Comment about the importance of performance measures
- **311 Requests**
 - There are challenges for 311 requests being completed – is of concern
 - External tracking is needed for 311 requests being completed
 - Comment: We need the best level of performance to make sure operations and/or city services are adequate.
- **Educating the Public**
 - How are we educating the community about what they are responsible for; such as recycling, trash, etc.?

- **Mowing**
 - Why can't we use the community to cut grass if they have the equipment?
 - The city has several agencies who cut grass. Is there any opportunity for mowing grass and doing it more efficiently?
- **Give some examples of how your office have helped city government or saved city funds?**
- **Data Sharing**
 - Is there any way you can create quantified/qualitative data to share with the Council on a monthly basis?

Baltimore City Information Technology (BCIT)

- **The Chairman informed the committee/councilmembers that they would be unable to ask certain questions, on certain topics due to data vulnerability**
- **Innovation Fund**
 - Are we looking to get permanent funding?
- **Open Baltimore Portal**
 - Were you able to retrieve lost data as a result of the transfer to this new portal?
- **311 System**
 - Can you talk us through what new will be added?
 - Does the 311 staff interface with others other than in English? How does this work? What is the process?
 - Define what "closed" means to the 311 system. It should mean the job was completed!
- **Training**
 - Can you talk about cyberattack training?
- **Performance Measures**
 - Comment(s): Is frustrated with performance measures; some of them don't tell the right story and/or is not effective

BCIT/Broadband/Digital Equity/Chief Data Officer

- **Upgrades**
 - What type of upgrades are planned?
 - Public Housing – are any plans tied into upgrades?
- **Broadband Plan**
 - Can you talk more about the plan?
 - Will any of the residents be involved in the plan?
- **Positions**
 - Can't find the positions in the budget book, where are they?
 - **Request: Would like the two (2) positions broken out in the budget book next fiscal year**

Department of Human Resources/Office of Labor Commissioner

- **For Labor Commissioner**
 - How many organizations and/or unions are there? **Answer: Eight (8)**
 - Where are each of the labor contracts located and how long is each contract?
 - When does the contract expires?
 - All contracts expire at the same time; isn't that an extra workload on your office?
Answer: Yes
- **For Human Resources**
 - **Workday Challenges**

- Are there steps to improvement?
- Where are you with this issue?
- Were the overdrafts resolved?
- **Apprenticeship Programs**
 - These programs used to be under your Department; I think they need to be returned to HR!
 - Where are we with apprenticeship programs? An apprenticeship program should be in every city agency!
 - Comment: Having evening school for apprenticeship programs in city schools
- **Risk Management**
 - Are we still testing for marijuana? **Answer: Yes**
 - Is periodic/random drug testing still done?
- **Wellness Program**
 - Why is a decrease in participation anticipated?
 - What are we doing to help our employees when needed?

Health Department

- **COVID Vaccinations**
 - How many people have been vaccinated by the city's Health Department?
Answer: Will research and provide a response
 - Have you vaccinated the homeless people who are staying in hotels? Can you talk about the turnover for homeless people staying in hotels and how you are addressing the issue?
 - What is recommended for people who have already had COVID? How soon can they be vaccinated?
- **Federal Funding/Grants**
 - What percentage of your budget is state and federal grants?
 - Comment: We should be relying less on federal grants!
- **Environmental Inspections**
 - The city should be able to inspect food facilities at 100%
 - Comments: Regarding hiring more health inspectors
- **Units within Health Department**
 - Of all your offices with the Department which need more positions?
- **Senior Population**
 - More funding is needed for our senior population; where do we go from here?
 - What kind of help do you need to increase funding and/or to help our senior population?
 - Comment: Hope that some of the American Rescue Funding can be used to help our seniors
 - Comments: Regarding recreation centers for seniors; to include access to other programs as well
 - Healthy Homes – Are there any intervention in place for our seniors to age “in place?” **Answer: Yes**
- **Lead Compliance**
 - Does the Department work at all with Housing for lead compliance?
- **Opioid Abuse**
 - Talk about what the Department is doing in this area
 - Opioid Deaths
 - Do we partner with anybody who is trying to get away from opioid?

- **Nursing Home Complaints**
 - How many did you receive and how many investigations were done?
 - What are the living conditions at these facilities? **Request: Please provide this information**
 - From the investigations what was the overall condition/state of our nursing homes? (Quality of Care)
 - **Staffing Model in Department**
 - Speak about some of the barriers you are experiencing to be fully staffed
 - **School Health Nurses**
 - Does every school get a full time nurse? **Answer: Twenty-two (22) city schools have a full time nurse.**
 - **Pandemic/COVID**
 - Do you think we are prepared for the next school year?
 - **Banning Pesticide Legislation**
 - What is the Department doing to prepare for inspections when the legislation is enacted in approximately one year?
4. Hearing recess; to reconvene on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.
-

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe. Yes, see "red" highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

Committee Vote: - Hearing Recessed

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 14, 2021

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Bill – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022	Bill #: 21-0080
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021	Time: 9:00 AM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

			What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@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

Ways and Means

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

9:00 AM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 173 284 1153, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4cac31370fe182a1d4663e19b4701e55)
MTID=e4cac31370fe182a1d4663e19b4701e55

21-0080 - Agency Hearings - Schedule attached online
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

21-0080

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2022 year.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing(s) called to recess; to reconvene on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 - DAY TWO

DAY ONE - AGENCY BUDGET HEARINGS

ADJOURNMENT