

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0099

Study and Report – Tax Sale Accounting

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello

Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Time (Beginning): 11:00 AM
Time (Ending): 11:35 AM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Excused: Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer (Jewish Holiday)

Form with checkboxes for Bill Synopsis, Attendance sheet, Agency reports, Video recording, Certification of notices, Evidence of notification, Final vote taken, Motioned by, Seconded by, Final Vote.

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Henry Raymond, Department of Finance
Hilary Ruley, Law Department
Todd Carter, Baltimore City Information Technology

- Allison Harris, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
 - Margaret Henn, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
 - William Harris, Property Owner/Speaker
 - Shana Roth-Gormley, Attorney
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Ramos, primary sponsor of the Ordinance gave opening remarks. She gave an overview for what the Ordinance does.
 2. The representative from the Department of Finance also talked about the Ordinance and about how the Department plans to move forward with the study and reporting for Tax Sale Accounting.
 3. Committee/councilmembers went over the agency reports with the agency representatives.
 4. Committee/councilmembers asked the representative from the Department of Finance questions. Some highlights of same were:
 - Questions
 - When you begin the new processes will you be hiring extra staff to work on this endeavor?
 - Short term fixes – Can you speak about some of the short-term fixes that you anticipate?
 - Zip Codes
 - You were unable to determine any erroneous zip codes. How did you determine that there were no erroneous zip codes?
 5. Four (4) speakers gave public testimony; three (3) in support of the Ordinance. Some highlighted comments from the three speakers in support of the Ordinance were:
 - Looks forward to the final report
 - Submitted written testimony (copies are on file)
 - Talked about some of the experiences associated with clientele who were/are in fear of losing their homes
 - Talked about how they help their clientele
 - Talked about the impact tax sales have on vacant properties
 6. The fourth speaker talked about some of the issues he experienced when his property(s) when into tax sales. Such as:
 - Believes a predatory system in place
 - Been victimized by tax sales and had to pay additional dollars to stop his home from being taken from him.
 7. Vote taken. Hearing concluded.
-

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

E. Costello:.....Yea
K. Burnett:.....Yea
R. Dorsey:Yea
D. McCray:Yea
S. Green Middleton:Yea
I. Schleifer:Excused
R. Stokes, Sr.:Yea

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: September 29, 2021

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
VOTING RECORD**

DATE: 9-28-21

BILL #: 21-0099

BILL TITLE: Study and Report – Tax Sale Accounting

MOTION BY: Burnett SECONDED BY: Dorsey

- FAVORABLE FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
 UNFAVORABLE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Costello, Eric - Chair	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, Kristerfer	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, Ryan	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCray, Danielle	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>excused</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stokes, Robert	✓ <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"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Eric T. Costello, *Eric T. Costello* / m.m.c

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: *m.m.c.*



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Bill – Study and Report – Tax Sale Accounting	Bill #: 21-0099
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021	Time: 11:00 AM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u>			Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	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

Ways and Means

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

11:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 179 454 4543, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?
MTID=e799cf47aeb212335cd9bd96bc6fe177c](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e799cf47aeb212335cd9bd96bc6fe177c)

21-0099
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, and Robert Stokes Sr.
Excused 1 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

21-0099

Study and Report - Tax Sale Accounting

For the purpose of requiring the Department of Finance and the Office of the City Administrator to submit a report outlining how they will address problems with the accounting system preventing residents from paying correct property taxes and problems with the tax lien sale system so that these problems are fixed before the next tax sale; and providing for a special effective date.

Sponsors: Odette Ramos, John T. Bullock, Ryan Dorsey, Zeke Cohen

A motion was made by member Burnett, seconded by member Dorsey, that Ordinance 21-0099 be recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Costello, Burnett, Dorsey, McCray, Middleton, and Stokes Sr.

ADJOURNMENT