

TWENTYFIRST DAY

THIRD COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2020-2024

JOURNAL
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

November 6, 2023

Reverend Dantwan Broady, Pastor of the Temple Church and Ministries, led the Council in Prayer.

The President and members of the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SHOWCASE BALTIMORE

FOCUS, Inc. delivered a presentation.

The City Council of Baltimore met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Nicholas J. Mosby, President, and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of October 30, 2023 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

DAVID MARCOZZI, as a member of the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, as a member from District 1.

ELIZABETH CORNISH, as a member of the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, as a member from District 12.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MUNICIPAL AGENCIES

November 1, 2023

Honorable Nick J. Mosby
President, Baltimore City Council
Room 400 – City Hall
Attention: Natawna B. Austin

In order to expedite the return of properties acquired through tax sale foreclosure to private ownership, Baltimore City Code Article § 8-3 provides for the City Comptroller to sell Properties acquired by tax sale at either private or public sale once certain criteria are met.

It is requested that the following property be published in the City Council Journal as promptly as possible in order that we may pursue its disposition:

Councilmanic District No. 2

NS 16 ft alley 1st N. Chatford Avenue
Rear 4600-4622 Chatford Avenue
Block 6120, Lot 115
Baltimore, Maryland 21206

In accordance with the provisions of Article 28 § 8-3 of the Baltimore City Code, certification of the publication shall be submitted to the Comptroller thirty (30) days after such publications. Please send a copy of the certification to the Department of Real Estate.

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Cathy Zoppo at 410-396-4771 or via email at cathy.zoppo@baltimorecity.gov

cc: Honorable Danielle McCray
K.C. Kelleher

INTRODUCTION AND READ FIRST TIME

The President laid before the City Council the following bills and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council for first reading:

Bill No. 23-0450 - By President Mosby and Councilmembers Middleton, Glover, Stokes, Costello, and Conway

A Resolution amending the period during which the Mayor shall return an ordinance or resolution to the Council if the Mayor does not approve or the ordinance or resolution; permitting the City Council to override a Mayoral veto at a regular or special meeting of the City Council; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the

The President laid before the City Council the following Council Resolutions for first reading:

Bill No. 23-0196R - By Councilmember Torrence (Administration - Office of the Mayor)

Introduced
(Read and adopted)

Baltimore United Against Book Bans

FOR the purpose of condemning book bans in public schools and libraries.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Baltimore City recognizes that intellectual freedom and the unfettered exchange of ideas are foundational to American democracy.

WHEREAS, reading is fundamental and a skill that is critical to life-long learning.

WHEREAS, the written word, in the form of books and other publications, is necessary for learning about complex issues and obtaining exposure to new ideas, cultures, and backgrounds.

WHEREAS, school-aged children, in particular, deserve to see themselves and their backgrounds reflected in the publications available to them in public schools and libraries.

WHEREAS, there has recently been an exponential increase in the number of book bans in public schools across the United States, with an increase of 33% in the last academic year alone.

WHEREAS, in the first 8 months of 2023, attempts were made to challenge or censor over 1900 books in public libraries across the country. The vast majority of these titles were about or by individuals of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

WHEREAS, books that have been targeted include The Diary of Anne Frank, Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, Angie Thomas's The Hate U Give, Patricia McCormack's Sold, and Maia Kobabe's Gender Queer: A Memoir.

WHEREAS, the movement to ban books also includes deceptive attempts to present a whitewashed narrative of history by prohibiting content that presents the factual history of subjects like slavery and the experience of Native Americans.

WHEREAS, the organization Moms for Liberty, which seeks to ban books it deems "offensive" and limit the discussion about race and LGBTQ+ identities in schools, has recently started targeting Maryland counties; in September 2023, Moms for Liberty led the charge for Carroll County remove 56 books from its public school libraries.

WHEREAS, historically, book bans have been used to eradicate books that shine a light on issues facing minorities and women. In the 19th century, book bans targeted publications critical of the institution of slavery; a Black minister in Maryland was sentenced to ten years in prison for owning a copy of abolitionist author Harriet Beacher Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. In the early 20th century, book bans were used to outlaw publications educating the public about contraception. And, in the Jim Crow era, the Daughters of the Confederacy was successful in their mission to ban textbooks that did not espouse the false "Lost Cause" narrative of the Civil War that they sought to perpetuate.

WHEREAS, this pattern continues in the choice of the works that are targeted as part of the latest wave of Orwellian attacks.

WHEREAS, a recent NPR-Ipsos poll revealed that more than 60% of Americans oppose banning books or restricting conversations regarding issues involving race, gender, and sexuality in schools.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Baltimore City recognizes that a rise in censorship is a threat to intellectual freedom and the foundations of democracy, as it stifles the development of informed and engaged citizens and the unrestrained exchange of ideas.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Baltimore City condemns book bans as an insidious form of discrimination that target publications about under represented and oppressed persons, and which tend to encourage negative behavior and practices toward them.

WHEREAS, book bans marginalize these classes of people further, by limiting the public's education and exposure to them and their struggles, and by making their stories seem taboo or shameful.

WHEREAS, in the 1982 *Board of Education v. Pico* decision, the United State Supreme Court determined that school book bans motivated by the quashing of disfavored ideas violated the First Amendment, noting, "our Constitution does not permit the official suppression of ideas." The discretion to regulate educational content "may not be exercised in a narrowly partisan or political manner."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the City Council of Baltimore condemns book bans and the attempt to ban books, in the strongest of terms.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of Baltimore intends to oppose any efforts to ban books in Baltimore City schools and libraries.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Torrence made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

There being no objection, the President declared that the Rules were suspended.

Then Councilmember Torrence made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

The President laid before the City Council the following Council Resolutions for first reading:

Bill No. 23-0197R - By Councilmembers Stokes and McCray

Introduced
(Read and adopted)

Recognizing National Apprenticeship Week - November 13-19, 2023

FOR the purpose of recognizing National Apprenticeship Week as November 13-19, 2023 and the value that registered apprenticeships add to industry, community, and government workforces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the City Council recognizes National Apprenticeship Week as November 13-19, 2023 and the value that registered apprenticeships add to industry, community, and government workforces.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to The Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Stokes made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Rules be suspended.

There being no objection, the President declared that the Rules were suspended.

Then Councilmember Stokes made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Resolution be adopted.

The roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, AND 1818 ADOPTED UNDER RULE 3-9.

The resolutions were read.

The roll was called on the adoption of the resolutions, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the resolutions adopted under Rule 3-9.

Ceremonial Resolutions will be found at the end of the Journal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BILL NO. 23-0413 REPORTED FAVORABLY, WITH AMENDMENTS,
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Middleton, for the Economic and Community Development Committee, reported Bill No. 23-0413 favorably, with amendments.

An Ordinance repealing the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 that was adopted by Resolution 14-019, effective October 30, 2014, as amended by Resolution 15-025, effective December 18, 2015; adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2024-2033; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Baltimore City.

Committee Amendments to City Council Bill No. 23-0413

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, after line 17, insert:

“A public hearing on the new plan, as required by State law, has been held.”

The amendments were read and adopted.

Favorable report, as amended, adopted.

The bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

**BILL NO. 23-0164R REPORTED FAVORABLY
AND ORDERED PRINTED FOR THIRD READING**

Councilmember Stokes, for the Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee, reported Bill No. 23-0164R favorably.

An Ordinance inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and other relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council on the current structure of the Board of School Commissioners, including member responsibilities and reporting practices.

Favorable report adopted.

The bill was read the second time and ordered printed for third reading.

THIRD READING

The President laid before the City Council:

BILL NO. 23- 0372 - An Ordinance establishing the Office of CitiStat; defining certain terms; providing for the appointment and confirmation of the Director of the Office; establishing the power and duties of the Office; providing for a staff and budget for the Office; establishing a data-driven officer for each principal agency of the Office; and providing for a special effective date.

Then Councilmember Conway offered the following amendment to the bill:

Amendment to City Council Bill No. 23-0372

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, in line 19, strike “*AGREEMENT*” and substitute “*PLAN*”; and, on that same page, in line 20, strike the first instance of “*AGREEMENT*” and substitute “*PLAN*”; and on page 5, in line 17, strike “*PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS*” and substitute “*PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLANS*”; and on page 6, in line 26, strike “*AGREEMENT*” and substitute “*PLAN*”.

Amendment No. 2

On page 4, strike line 1 in its entirety; and, on that same page, in lines 2, 3, 4, and 5, strike “(7)”, “(8)”, “(9)”, and “(10)”, respectively, and substitute “(6)”, “(7)”, “(8)”, and “(9)”, respectively.

Amendment No. 3

On page 5, strike beginning with “ENSURE” in line 20 down through and including “ARE” in line 22 and substitute “ESTABLISH MEASUREMENTS THAT CAN BE”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with “ENSURE” in line 25 down through and including “PORTAL” in line 26 and substitute “ASSIST IN PUBLISHING ACCURATE DATA ON THE CITY’S OPEN DATA PORTAL AS ALLOWED BY APPLICABLE LAWS”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with “FROM” in line 27 down through and including “PERIOD” in line 29; and, on that same page, in line 29, after the semicolon, insert “AND”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with “BETWEEN” in line 30 down through and including “ADMINISTRATOR” in line 33.

Amendment No. 4

On page 6, in lines 11 and 27, in each instance, strike “AND IMPLEMENT”; and, on that same page, in lines 13 and 16, in each instance, strike “AND DISTRIBUTE”; and, on that same page, in line 26, strike “MANAGE” and substitute “MONITOR PROGRESS ON”; and, on that same page, in line 28, after the semicolon, insert “AND”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with the semicolon in line 29 down through and including “ADMINISTRATOR” in line 31.

The roll was called on the amendment, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 14.

Nays - McCray - Total 1.

The President declared the amendment adopted and ordered the bill printed in enrolled form.

BILL NO. 23-0393 - An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the construction and maintenance of a portion of a building projecting into the public right-of-way on the west side of Baylis Street, on the property known as 3424 Toone Street; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 23-0394 - An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the construction and maintenance of a portion of a building, projecting into the public right-of-way on the east side of the property known as 229 East Montgomery Street; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 23-0397 - An Ordinance changing the zoning for the properties known as Western Side North Lehigh Street South West Corner Eager Street (Block 6182, Lot 007), and Western Side North Lehigh Street 52-7 Feet South of Eager Street (Block 6182, Lot 008), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the R-4 Zoning District to the I-2 Zoning District; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 23-0399 - An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 09-161; approving certain amendments to the Development Plan of the Benhurst Park Planned Unit Development; and providing for a special effective date.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

BILL NO. 23-0423 - An Ordinance changing the name of Cottage Avenue Park, located at North East Side 30 Foot Alley 2nd South West of Cottage Avenue Rear 3700-36 Cottage Avenue (Block 3335, Lot 067), to Candy Stripe Park.

It was read the third time.

The bill being on its final passage, the yeas and nays were called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Burnett, Bullock, Porter, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The bill was read and approved, and the bill was declared "Passed".

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Middleton, duly seconded, the City Council adjourned to meet on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

CR 1803 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution recognizing The People's Association of Oliver Community on the Dawson Family and for those who passed away in the Oliver Community.

CR 1804 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Adee's Coffee Roasters and Adee's Tulips on your Grand Opening and Helping to fuel the vibrant First District Small Business Community.

CR 1805 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Hercules Williams, Jr. on your 80th Birthday, may you experience a wealth of bliss, good health and happiness.

CR 1806 Bullock

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Hester Brenda Johnson on your retirement of 33 years with Baltimore City Public School System.

CR 1807 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating the Eager Neighborhood Association on being a great community partner and organization.

CR 1808 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Coppin State University School of Business on your recent Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

CR 1809 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating the University of Maryland Children's Hospital on your 75th Anniversary and for all your dedication and excellent work provided to the children of Baltimore, we look forward to another 75 years of your service.

CR 1810 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Reverend Willie E. Ray on your 50th Pastoral Anniversary.

CR 1811 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Richard McClearn and Tasha Horton McClearn on your Anniversary, may your celebration be memorable and filled with happiness.

CR 1812 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Derik Queen on y our remarkable basketball accomplishments while representing the City of Baltimore in an honorable way.

CR 1813 Costello

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating St. Ignatius Loyola Academy on your 30th Anniversary.

CR 1814 Costello

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Sharon Harris on your decade of service to Christ Church Harbor Apartments and its residents.

CR 1815 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Charles Wesley James, Jr., and Minetta R. James on your 80th Birthday Celebrations!

CR 1816 Burnett

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Stillmeadow Community Fellowship on the Peace Park Third Anniversary Celebration and your continued environmental stewardship and conservation efforts in the District Eight Community.

CR 1817 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating St. Ann's Church on your 150th Anniversary!

CR 1818 President Mosby, All Members,

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Edward Cornelius, Jr. on your 50th Anniversary!