

FOURTH DAY

THIRD COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2020-2024

JOURNAL
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

February 12, 2024

The meeting opened with a moment of silent reflection.

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

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of January 29, 2024 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, Council President
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Honorable President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to inform your Honorable Body that I have signed into law this day the following bills:

23-0420 – Residential Permit Parking Program Area ___ – Brunt Street Area

For the purpose of establishing a new statutory Residential Permit Parking Area ___ for the Brunt Street Area.

In service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

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. 24-0487 – By Councilmembers Cohen and Dorsey

An Ordinance amending the City Council redistricting process; creating the Redistricting Commission; establishing the duties of the Commission; requiring that the Commission submit a redistricting plan to the City Council before a certain deadline; requiring the Mayor and City Council to take certain action before a certain deadline; defining certain terms; generally relating to the Baltimore City Council redistricting process; 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 Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee.

Bill No. 24-0488 – By City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$581,334 to M-R: Arts and Culture - Service 824 (Events: Art: Culture: and Film), to provide funding for general operations; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Bill No. 24-0489 – By Councilmembers Middleton, Stokes, and Cohen and President Mosby

An Ordinance amending the composition of the Youth Commission; providing for the compensation of Commission members; providing for the selection of certain officers; establishing the Executive Committee; providing for the membership and duties of the Executive Committee; requiring the adoption of a constitution and bylaws; updating the powers and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the Commission; requiring agency cooperation with the Commission; and generally related to amending certain provisions related to the Commission.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee.

Bill No. 24-0490 – By Councilmembers Torrence, Bullock, Conway, Ramos, Glover, Cohen, and Dorsey

An Ordinance requiring a person to obtain a license to act as a residential property wholesaler; defining certain terms; providing for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a residential property wholesaler license under certain circumstances; providing for judicial and appellate review of an administrative decision related to a residential property wholesaler license; imposing certain penalties; establishing protections to homeowners from certain solicitations; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the regulation of residential property wholesalers.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

Bill No. 24-0491 – By Councilmembers Dorsey, Bullock, Ramos, Cohen, and Torrence

An Ordinance altering the notice and appeal time lines for certain footway improvements, gradings, pavings, repavings, or repairs; excepting an assessment from bearing interest under certain circumstances; making conforming changes; and generally relating to the citation and billing process for footway repairs.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee.

Bill No. 24-0492 – By Councilmember Cohen

An Ordinance establishing the composition of the Redistricting Commission; creating the application and nomination process for members of the Commission; requiring the Commission to select a certain consultant; establishing certain qualifications for the consultant; creating leadership and procedural requirements for the Commission; defining certain terms; generally relating to the Baltimore City Council redistricting process; making this Ordinance contingent on the ratification of a certain City Charter amendment by a certain date; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee.

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

Bill No. 24-0212R - By Councilmember Ramos

Introduced
(Read)

Request for State Action – Pass House Bill 477/Senate Bill 644 – Landlord and Tenant – Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies – Local Just Cause Termination Provisions

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB 477/SB 644 (Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local Just Cause Termination Provisions), which would allow local jurisdictions to enact “just cause eviction” laws and protect residents from arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory displacement from their communities.

Recitals

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of Baltimore City residents are under the constant threat of eviction and displacement from lease nonrenewals.

WHEREAS, this housing crisis disproportionately impacts Black and Latine families, essential workers, and those with service jobs.

WHEREAS, in response to the growing need for housing security, the Baltimore City Council introduced a legislative package to address this need that included a requirement that landlords offer a renewal for residential leases unless “just cause” is provided.

WHEREAS, the legislation was sponsored by Councilmember Antonio Glover of Baltimore’s 13th District to specifically address an eviction loophole that allowed for hundreds of City residents experiencing economic hardship to be left without secure housing. In July 2021, data showed that evictions from this loophole had doubled in just 2 years.

WHEREAS, shortly after this legislation temporarily became law, it became the subject of legal attacks under the Maryland Constitution with opponents arguing that the City did not have the authority to pass such a law. The law expired as an emergency measure before those legal issues were fully resolved.

WHEREAS, during the short time the City bill was effective, the City Council did not observe any of the pitfalls that opponents of the City bill predicted. Because of the bill, the City Council to deliver much needed relief to residents without causing undue hardship for any.

WHEREAS, the City’s “just cause” legislation did not prevent a landlord from evicting a tenant that had violated the terms of their lease or otherwise posed a threat to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, that the Baltimore City Council urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB 477/SB 644 (Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local Just Cause Termination Provisions), which would allow local jurisdictions to enact “just cause eviction” laws and protect residents from arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory displacement from their communities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Governor of Maryland, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the General Assembly, the Baltimore City Council President and the President’s legislative staff, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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

The Charter requires 12 affirmative votes to suspend the Rules for immediate adoption. There were fewer than 12 Councilmembers present. The vote did not proceed and the bill was laid over to be heard on 2nd reading at the subsequent meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, AND 2025 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, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Torrence, Bullock, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - McCray, Middleton, Porter, Burnett - Total 4.

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

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

THIRD READING

The President laid before the City Council:

BILL NO. 23-0418 - An Ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco products in stadiums; defining certain terms; establishing certain penalties; 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, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Torrence, Bullock, Costello, Stokes, Glover, Ramos - Total 11.

Nays - 0.

Absent - McCray, Middleton, Burnett, Porter - Total 4.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Schleifer, duly seconded, the City Council adjourned to meet on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

CR 2006 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Roosevelt Fennoy,
November 1, 1946 – January 18, 2024.

CR 2007 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Kim McNeil on 23 years of service to the City of
Baltimore.

CR 2008 Torrence

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Yvonne Wilson on all your years of service, dedication,
and outreach to the Community of Druid Heights.

CR 2009 Porter

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Allen Bernard Smith-Atkinson,
July 9, 1949 – December 24, 2023.

CR 2010 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Valencia M. White,
October 6, 1961 – January 13, 2024.

CR 2011 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Crystal Evette Wilson,
December 30, 1961 – January 26, 2024.

CR 2012 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Dr. Vonnya Pettigrew on the Building Block
Celebration, commemorating your achievement of being the first African American woman in
Maryland to acquire an entire block.

CR 2013 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Prim and Proper on your Grand Opening of Prim and
Proper, the collaborative effort between Clark Hospitality and the Outkrowd Group to bring a fine
dining experience to the City.

CR 2014 Middleton

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Bishop Luther C. Moore on your 75th Birthday Celebration.

CR 2015 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Juan Christian, March 11, 1964 – January 24, 2024.

CR 2016 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating DJ Leroy Greene, Earl Calloway, Samuel Coleman, Ava Fields, Sarah Sullivan, Jim Watts, and Michael Sequin on over 33 years of service, the Charm City Dancers have encouraged and taught many men and women to become great dancers and entrepreneurs.

CR 2017 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Rolan Melvin Diggs, January 3, 1932 – January 20, 2024.

CR 2018 Bullock

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Deason Clyde Ray on your years of service at the 1st Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

CR 2019 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Michael Vernon Mitchell, July 23, 1962 – January 30, 2024.

CR 2020 Burnett

A Baltimore City Resolution on the death of Christine Fogle, February 3, 1944 – January 31, 2024.

CR 2021 Cohen

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Resurrection Sandtown on your commitment to creating opportunities that benefit the community and all people within it.

CR 2022 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Ardelia Stith Reid-Lokeman on your 90th Birthday, may you experience a wealth of bliss, good health, and happiness.

CR 2023 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Blank Slate on your Grand Opening of the Carlton, Baltimore's Minority-Owned Real Estate firm that is committed to revitalizing vacant historic properties.

CR 2024 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Love to Life Church and Ministries, Inc. on your commitment to providing housing to Baltimore City residents.

CR 2025 President Mosby, All Members

A Baltimore City Resolution congratulating Forest Park High School on your existence and service to students for over 100 years.