

FOURTH DAY

FIRST COUNCILMANIC YEAR - SESSION OF 2024-2028

JOURNAL
CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

February 10, 2025

Kohenet Dr. Harriette Wimms of the Jews of Color Mishpacha Project led the Council delivered an opening prayer.

Led by Marine veteran, Councilmember Zac Blanchard, 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: Zeke Cohen, President, and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos

JOURNAL APPROVED

The Journal of January 27, 2025 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

DILLON ASHBURNE, as a member of the Police Accountability Board.

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. 25-0018 - By Councilmember Ramos

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Porter, Blanchard, Glover, and Conway

An Ordinance prohibiting the presence of an unauthorized person within the boundaries of an emergency scene; establishing certain penalties; defining certain terms; and generally relating to unauthorized persons within the boundaries of an emergency scene.

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

Bill No. 25-0019 - By Councilmember Blanchard (Administration)

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Torrence, Porter, Jones, Glover, and Ramos

An Ordinance creating a community benefits district within Baltimore City; specifying the boundaries of the District; creating an Authority and describing its rights, duties, and powers; designating the initial interim Board of the Authority and providing for the selection and approval of a full Board; creating the administrator for the Authority to administer the District; mandating the financial responsibilities of the Authority and the City in conjunction with the operation of the District; providing for a supplemental tax to be collected by and for the Authority; establishing limits and minimums on the amount of the supplemental tax; incorporating the assessment, collection, and enforcement process for the supplemental tax within the procedures and processes already existing; specifying the role of the City in maintaining and enhancing existing services; encouraging the creation of partnerships between and among the Authority, the City, the State, the federal government, and other property owners not subject to the supplemental tax; establishing the Board of Estimates as the entity charged with reviewing and approving various matters relating to the District and the Authority; providing for the renewal, expiration, termination, and approval of the District and the Authority; and otherwise providing for the existence, operation, and control of the District and the Authority.

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

Bill No. 25-0020 – By Councilmember Bullock

An Ordinance permitting, subject to certain conditions, the conversion of a single-family dwelling unit to 3 dwelling units in the R-8 Zoning District on the property known as 2001 West Baltimore Street (Block 0206, Lot 045), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; granting variances regarding certain bulk regulations (lot size area) and off-street parking requirements; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0021 – By Councilmember Bullock

An Ordinance changing the zoning for the property known as 3221 Frederick Avenue (Block 2123A, Lot 002), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the I-1 Zoning District to the IMU-1 Zoning District; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the

Bill No. 25-0022 – By Councilmember Porter

An Ordinance granting variances from certain bulk and yard regulations (minimum building height, rear-yard setback, and maximum lot coverage) on the property known as 1121 Bayard Street (Block 0767, Lot 032), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0023 – By Councilmember Porter

An Ordinance changing the zoning for the property known as 3200 Lily Avenue (Block 7566, Lot 035), as outlined in red on the accompanying plat, from the R-4 Zoning District to the I-1 Zoning District.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Bill No. 25-0024 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,417,451 to the Board of Elections – Service 899 (Fair Conduct of Elections), to provide funding for emergency security equipment and unbudgeted mailing costs from 2024 elections; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0025 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance transferring a General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$4,228,173 from M-R Debt Service (Service 123 - General Debt Service) to the Department of Finance (Service 703 - Payroll); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0026 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$33,361,780 to the Fire Department – Service 602 (Fire Suppression and Emergency Rescue), to provide funding for overtime due to sworn vacancies and unbudgeted EMS contractual services; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0027 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance transferring a General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$5,251,429 from the General Fund Balance to the Health Department (Service 315 - Emergency Services); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0028 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance transferring a General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,514,351 from the Department of General Services to the Department of Law (Service 861 - Controversies); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0029 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$250,323 to the Liquor License Board – Service 850 (Liquor Licensing), to provide funding for overtime for inspectors beyond budget; state salary adjustments for full time positions; and providing for a special effective date

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0030 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$3,275,384 to the Police Department – Service 622 (Police Patrol), to provide funding for overtime due to sworn vacancies; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0031 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$5,982,755 to the Department of Public Works – Service 663 (Waste Removal and Recycling), to provide funding for unbudgeted contractual collection services and tipping fees beyond budgeted amount; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0032 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance providing a Supplementary Special Revenue Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$6,973,547 to the Department of Recreation and Parks – Service 646 (Park Maintenance), to provide funding for overspending on contractual services and overtime in Urban Forestry, Park Maintenance; and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0033 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance transferring a General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$4,564,341 from M-R Debt Service (Service 123 - General Debt Service) to the Office of the Sheriff (Service 882 - Deputy Sheriff Enforcement); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0034 – By the City Council President (Administration – Department of Finance)

An Ordinance transferring a General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,039,801 from M-R Debt Service (Service 123 - General Debt Service) to the Department of Transportation (Service 683 - Street Management); and providing for a special effective date.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill No. 25-0007R – By President Cohen

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, and Ramos

A Resolution inviting representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel to testify before the City Council on topics related to utility billing and shutoff practices in Baltimore City.

The bill was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Legislative Investigations.

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

Bill No. 25-0008R - By Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Glover, and Ramos and President Cohen

Introduced

(Read and adopted)

Request for State Action – Support the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB 220/SB 10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 (“RREA”), legislation that would remove incineration from the State Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) and ensure that Marylanders are not subsidizing energy plants that harm the environment and public health.

Recitals

WHEREAS, Incineration is not “clean energy”; burning trash produces greenhouse gases, contaminated ash, and toxic elements including mercury and lead. Exposure to these pollutants is associated with cancer, brain damage, asthma, lung damage, heart attacks, and heart disease, which disproportionately plague overburdened and underserved Baltimore communities.

WHEREAS, Baltimore is home to the Wheelabrator Baltimore (“BRESKO”) incinerator which is the largest industrial polluter in the City and disproportionately contributes to negative health outcomes in the predominantly Black and low-income communities of Westport, Mt. Winans, Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. For the year 2023, the BRESKO incinerator was awarded \$8,986,091.21 in subsidies from the State’s renewable energy subsidy program.

WHEREAS, Baltimore residents have expressed their discontent toward the BRESKO incinerator polluting their neighborhoods, as evident from submitted testimony in support of the RREA.

WHEREAS, Baltimore City residents should not be forced to subsidize the incinerator that is compounding racial, environmental, and health injustices and contaminating the air Baltimoreans breathe.

WHEREAS, Maryland has a goal of 100% clean energy by 2035 and the State Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 set a target of net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2045.

WHEREAS, To meet Maryland's pollution reduction and climate goals, rather than spending on polluting and aging incinerators, our State must reallocate subsidies in a just and economically sustainable manner, directing them toward true clean and renewable energy.

WHEREAS, The RREA is listed among the Mayor's administration-supported priorities for the 2025 Maryland General Assembly legislative session.

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore is committed to supporting the health and wellness of all Baltimoreans, creating a cleaner and greener environment for our residents, and ensuring that a transition into clean renewable energy brings green energy to power our homes and green jobs for our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, that the City of Baltimore urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB 220/SB 10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025, legislation that would remove incineration from the State Renewable Portfolio Standard and ensure that Marylanders are not subsidizing energy plants that harm the environment and public health.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Governor, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Chair and members of the Economic Matters Committee, the Chair and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the General Assembly, the Council President and the President's legislative staff, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

Councilmember Porter made a motion that the Rules be suspended.

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

Then Councilmember Porter made a motion that the Resolution be adopted.

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

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the Resolution “Adopted”.

Bill No. 25-0009R - By President Cohen
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Torrence and Jones

Introduced
(Read and adopted)

**Downtown Management Authority - Composition - Member
Selected by the Baltimore City Council**

FOR the purpose of selecting and approving Councilmember Zac Blanchard to represent the Baltimore City Council on the Downtown Management Authority’s Board of Directors pursuant to City Code, Article 14, § 1-7(e)(3).

Recitals

City Code, Article 14, Subtitle 1 authorizes the creation of the Downtown Management District and the Downtown Management Authority (“the Authority”), subject to certain terms, conditions, and limitations.

Subtitle 1, § 1-7 {“Board of Directors”} also establishes that a Board of Directors shall oversee and govern the Authority. Among other Board positions, the Code requires that “1 member shall be selected by and approved through Resolution of the City Council.” *See* City Code, Art. 14, § 1-7(e)(3).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council selects and approves Councilmember Zac Blanchard to represent the Baltimore City Council on the Downtown Management Authority’s Board of Directors pursuant to City Code, Article 14, § 1-7(e)(3).

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the President of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Management Authority, the Executive Director of the Downtown Management Authority, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.

Councilmember Middleton made a motion that the Rules be suspended.

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

Then Councilmember Middleton made a motion that the Resolution be adopted.

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

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 14.

Nays - 0.

Abstain - Blanchard - Total 1.

The President declared the Resolution "Adopted".

CONSENT CALENDAR

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS NO. 0026, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0030, 0031, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035, 0036, 0037, 0038, 0039, 0040, 0041, AND 0042 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 Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, 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.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Councilmember Schleifer made a motion that the favorable report of the Legislative Investigations Committee be adopted.

The Appointment of

VERONICA MCBETH

Director

BOARD:

Department of Transportation

The motion prevailed.

The President declared the favorable report adopted.

Councilmember Schleifer made a motion that the appointment of Veronica McBeth be confirmed.

The roll was called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the appointment of Veronica McBeth confirmed.

Councilmember Schleifer made a motion that the favorable report of the Legislative Investigations Committee be adopted.

The Appointment of

JON LARIA

Chair

BOARD:

Planning Commission

The motion prevailed.

The President declared the favorable report adopted.

Councilmember Schleifer made a motion that the appointment of Jon Laria be confirmed.

The roll was called, resulting as follows:

Yeas - President and Councilmembers Parker, McCray, Dorsey, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos - Total 15.

Nays - 0.

The President declared the appointment of Jon Laria confirmed.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0024**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0024.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0025**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0025.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**Motion to Suspend City Council Rule 10-3
with Regard to Bill No. 25-0026**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0026.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0027**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0027.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0028**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0028.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0029**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0029.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0030**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0030.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0031**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0031.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0032**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0032.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0033**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0033.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0034**

Councilmember McCray made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0034.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember McCray announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULE 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0019**

Councilmember Torrence made a motion to suspend Rule 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0019.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember Torrence announced a hearing date for the bill.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND CITY COUNCIL RULES 10-2 AND 10-3
WITH REGARD TO BILL NO. 25-0007R**

Councilmember Schleifer made a motion to suspend Rules 10-2 and 10-3 in order to have an early hearing on Bill No. 25-0007R.

The motion carried without exception, and the President declared the rules suspended with regard to the bill. Then Councilmember Schleifer announced a hearing date for the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Middleton the City Council adjourned to meet on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar

CR0026 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Vashti Joyner in recognition of 104 years of commitment to education and lifelong learning.

CR 0027 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Laverne Conway in recognition of their retirement from the City of Baltimore after 38 years of service as an Impoundment Services Supervisor.

CR0028 Torrence

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Open Bible Gospel Church in recognition of their 25-year anniversary.

CR0029 Jones

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Neil Edward Cummings, August 7, 1988 - January 23, 2025.

CR0030 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Bessie V. Franklin in recognition of her 100th Birthday.

CR0031 Torrence

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Gwendolyn Giles Rooks, July 6, 1935 - January 27, 2025.

CR0032 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Sally T Grant in recognition of being a Longtime Baltimore Civic Leader, Board member of BCCC Foundation, League of Women Voters, ACLU MD Board and Girl Scouts advocate.

CR 0033 President Cohen

A Presidential Memo recognizing Vince Andrews for a vibrant and impactful life dedicated to the service of others as a teacher, neighbor, public defender, and abiding champion of Baltimore City.

CR 0034 Bullock

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating American Legion Federal Post #19 in recognition of its 94th anniversary.

CR 0035 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Shirley Gregory in recognition of more than 16 years of distinguished leadership as President of the Saint Helena Community Association.

CR 0036 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Joe Stadler in recognition of more than 16 years of distinguished leadership as Vice President of the Saint Helena Community Association.

CR 0037 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Suzanne Stadler in recognition of more than 16 years of distinguished leadership as Treasurer of the Saint Helena Community Association.

CR 0038 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution congratulating Kevin Murphy in recognition of 28 years of dedicated service to the City of Baltimore.

CR 0039 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Flora Hughes, December 8, 1941 - January 31, 2025.

CR 0040 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Michael Tyrone Riddick, December 19, 1954 - January 20, 2025.

CR 0041 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Joan Ann Smith, February 10, 1941 - January 16, 2025.

CR 0042 President Cohen

A Baltimore City Council Resolution on the death of Neil Edward Cummings, August 7, 1988 - January 23, 2025.