City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	20-0199R	**Version:**	0	**Name:**	Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore
Type:	City Council Resolution			**Status:**	Adopted
File created:	2/24/2020			**In control:**	Health
On agenda:				**Final action:**	9/21/2020
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore
For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland State Health Department and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore.

Sponsors: Mayor Brandon M. Scott, Bill Henry, Eric T. Costello, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Ryan Dorsey, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Zeke Cohen, John T. Bullock, Mary Pat Clarke, Edward Reisinger, Sharon Green Middleton, Kristerfer Burnett, Shannon Sneed, Danielle McCray, Robert Stokes, Sr.

Indexes: Baltimore City, Investigative Hearing, Transgender Community

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 20-0199R~1st Reader, 2. 04a BCPSS Report, 3. Synopsis 20-0199R, 4. Health 20-0199R, 5. Written testimony #1, 6. Written testimony #2, 7. Written testimony #3, 8. MOED 20-0199R, 9. Mayor's Office 20-0199R, 10. Written testimony #4, 11. Balto City Social Services 20-0199R, 12. HANDOUT POWERPT PRESENTATION 20-0199R #1 9 15 20, 13. HANDOUT POWERPT PRESENTATION 20-0199R #2 9 15 20, 14. FOLLOW UP INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER HEARING 20-0199R FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT Safe Place Locations for City Council_, 15. RE Written Testimony #05, 16. 20-0199R~2nd Reader, 17. Written testimony #5, 18. Written testimony #6, 19. Hearing Notes 20-0199R 9 15 20

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/21/2020	0	City Council	Adopted	
9/21/2020	0	Health	Recommended Favorably	
9/15/2020	0	Health	Recommended Favorably	Pass
7/20/2020	0	Health	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Office of the Mayor	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to States' Attorney's Office	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Social Services	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Employee Development	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Health	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Baltimore Development Corporation	
2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Baltimore City Public School System	

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2/27/2020	0	The City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Human Services
2/24/2020	0	City Council	Assigned
2/24/2020	0	City Council	Introduced

*** Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

City of Baltimore
Council Bill R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: President Scott

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning
Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore
For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland State Health Department and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore.

Recitals

Anti-transgender stigma, transphobia, and the dehumanization of transgender individuals is prevalent in the media, politics and public policy. According to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's (HRCF) 2018 report *Dismantling a Culture of Violence: Understanding Anti-Transgender Violence and Ending the Crisis*, transgender and gender-expansive people face stigma surrounding who they are from an early age. Often rooted in inaccurate beliefs and politically-motivated attacks on transgender identities, this stigma erects barriers in virtually every facet of life, denying transgender people the equal opportunity to succeed and be accepted for who they are. In a Baltimore-based Be the Conversation (BTC) study, transgender and non-binary Baltimoreans view stigma and transphobia as a leading contributor to their violence experiences. This stigma and lack of general knowledge and acceptance has a profound impact on the health, well-being, and safety of transgender individuals.

According to the HRCF report, there has been a slew of attacks on the transgender community, including the Trump administration's intention to redefine "sex" to exclude transgender people from existing civil rights protections. Removing existing civil rights protections increases the possibility of attack and greater discrimination towards transgender individuals. Existing discrimination is found in unequal barriers to education, economic development, housing, health care, and the justice system.

In a report by GLSEN, the nation's leading education non-profit addressing LGBTQ issues in K-12 schools, over half of transgender students (54%) have been denied access to restrooms that are consistent with their gender and nearly half of transgender students (48%) have been prevented from using their chosen name. In addition, the HRCF report indicates that 84% of transgender youth do not feel safe in the classroom.

Extensive barriers to health care exist for the transgender community. Finding medical professionals that respect and affirm their identities as well as insurance that covers medically necessary procedures are on-going challenges. Transgender individuals report being denied care simply because of their gender identity. In the

Leading Innovation for Transgender Women's Health and Empowerment (LITE) study, individuals cited safety in transit as a barrier to accessing healthcare. Transphobia also leads to adverse mental health, including suicidality and PTSD. Other barriers faced include unstable housing, increased rates of homelessness and employment discrimination.

Transgender individuals suffer from an increased rate of violence. In the Supporting Transgender Research and Opportunities in the Baltimore Environment (STROBE) study, 75% of participants had experience physical violence in their lifetime. Violence is highly prevalent for local transgender women of color, especially violence perpetrated by strangers and intimate partner violence. Specifically, in Baltimore, police violence and harassment are among the concerns that face the transgender community.

Black transgender women in Baltimore suffer from the added impacts of racism and sexism, compounding the discrimination they face. Given the added obstacles they face, Black transgender women are especially vulnerable, with many dealing with poverty, homelessness, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, survival sex work, addiction, HIV and other STIs, and general violence. There is an epidemic of violence against Black transgender women, with eight Black transgender women having been killed in Baltimore City since 2012.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Council invites representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland State Health Department and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the

the Mayor, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Baltimore Police Commissioner, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Director of the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State's Attorney, the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Secretary of the State Health Department, the President and CEO of Behavioral Health System Baltimore, the Mayor's LGBTQ Affairs Liaison, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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