



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	21-0071R	Version:	0	Name:	Investigative Hearing - Developing a Coordinated Response to Baltimore City's Overdose Crisis
Type:	City Council Resolution	Status:		In control:	In Committee
File created:	10/4/2021	Final action:		Enactment #:	Health, Environment, and Technology
On agenda:		Enactment date:		Title:	Investigative Hearing - Developing a Coordinated Response to Baltimore City's Overdose Crisis For the purpose of requesting the Baltimore City Administrator, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Director of the Department of Finance to come before the Baltimore City Council to provide a comprehensive briefing on the City's coordinated response to the current overdose crisis; how we can develop and implement an Rx Stat workgroup with our local healthcare partners; the use of mobile safe injection sites; the allocation of funding to distribute fentanyl test strips; and an examination of the prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs we have in place to save lives.
Sponsors:	Danielle N. McCray, John T. Bullock, Sharon Green Middleton, Mark Conway, Robert Stokes, Sr., Kristerfer Burnett, Zeke Cohen, Odette Ramos, Phylcia Porter, James Torrence				
Indexes:	Informational Hearing, Opioid Epidemic, Overdose				
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Attachments:	1. 21-0071R~1st Reader, 2. Law 21-0071R, 3. BCFD Bill Report - City Council Bill 21-0071R, 4. OEM 21-0071R, 5. BCHD 21-0071R, 6. OPI - 21-0071R, 7. MONSE 21-0071R Overdose Crisis, 8. CAO 21-0071R- Coordinated Response to Opioid Crisis, 9. BPD 21-0071R, 10. Finance 21-0071R, 11. Synopsis 21-0071R, 12. Hearing Agenda 21-0071R, 13. Health 21-0071R Presentation - November 17, 2021, 14. BHSB Presentation 21-0071R, 15. BRIDGES CCHET Briefing OPS 11.17.21, 16. Hearing Minutes 21-0071R, 17. Hearing Notes 21-0071R, 18. BCHD PP- 21-0071R Baltimore City's Response to the Opioid Epidemic, 19. OD Crisis_HET Hearing_1_25_23, 20. OPI 21-0071R update, 21. Agenda 21-0071R Jan 25 2023, 22. Minutes 21-0071R Jan 25 2023, 23. Attendance Record 21-0071R Jan 25 2023, 24. Notes 21-0071R Jan 25 2023				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/21/2022	0	Health, Environment, and Technology	Worksession	
12/8/2022	0	Health, Environment, and Technology	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to City Solicitor	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Police Department	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Baltimore City Administrator	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Innovation	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Health	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Fire Department	
10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Emergency	

10/7/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Management Refer to Dept. of Finance
10/4/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Introduced
10/4/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Assigned
10/4/2021	0	Health, Environment, and Technology	Scheduled for a Public Hearing

* **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 (Resolution) R

Introduced by: Councilmember McCray

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning

Investigative Hearing - Developing a Coordinated Response to Baltimore City's Overdose Crisis

For the purpose of requesting the Baltimore City Administrator, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Director of the Department of Finance to come before the Baltimore City Council to provide a comprehensive briefing on the City's coordinated response to the current overdose crisis; how we can develop and implement an Rx Stat workgroup with our local healthcare partners; the use of mobile safe injection sites; the allocation of funding to distribute fentanyl test strips; and an examination of the prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs we have in place to save lives.

Recitals

The opioid crisis is an epidemic plaguing the entire country, and Baltimore has not been immune to its devastating impacts. This epidemic knows no bounds: it impacts all communities regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Between 2013 and 2019, Baltimore City saw a 271% increase in fatal overdoses. In 2020, there were 1,028 intoxication-related deaths in our city. At least two people die each day from an opioid overdose.

According to the CDC, the emergence of the opioid epidemic has endured 3 phases. The first phase occurred in the 1990s with the rise of prescription opioid-related deaths. The second phase occurred during the early 2010s with heroin-related deaths. The phase we are currently in has been plagued by the emergence of fentanyl. According to the DEA, fentanyl is within 92% of all drugs being sold nationwide. The numbers are continually disheartening: 88.6% of all Baltimore City overdose deaths involved fentanyl in 2019.

In 2015, Baltimore City took crucial steps towards addressing the growing epidemic through former Mayor Rawlings-Blake's Heroin Treatment and Prevention Task Force Report. The cohort was able to study the root causes and implications surrounding heroin addiction in order to propose recommendations for improving access to effective treatments and neighborhood capability. During these pivotal meetings, the cohort examined relevant data, current access to care and practice standards, and neighborhoods. Their recommendations established the foundation for the development of the current, 3 pronged strategy the Baltimore City Health Department utilizes to combat the opioid crisis.

We know that addiction and overdoses are preventable, treatment exists, and recovery is possible. As we continue to improve our response strategies, we must evaluate the effectiveness of our current systems and our capacity to model programs implemented in similar jurisdictions that have proven successful. We must analyze strategies like New York City's Rx Stat program, Philadelphia's Mobile Safe Injection Sites, and citywide campaigns to distribute fentanyl test strips, and an examination of the prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs we have in place to save lives.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Baltimore City Council requests that the Baltimore City Administrator, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Director of the Department of Finance come before the Baltimore City Council to provide a comprehensive briefing on the City's coordinated response to the current overdose crisis; how we can develop and implement an Rx Stat workgroup with our local healthcare partners; the use of mobile safe injection sites; the allocation of funding to distribute fentanyl test strips; and an examination of the prevention, diversion and rehabilitation programs we have in place to save lives.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City Administrator, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, the Director of the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.