

# **Baltimore Casino Local Development Council (LDC)**

## **LDC FY24 Q1 & Q2 Update Meeting (Optional)**

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6:00-8:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions, Meeting Goals
- CLIF Program Update
  - FY23 Year-End Report Preview
  - FY24 Budget Supplemental Update
  - FY25 Budget Update
- Review FY24 YTD Activity
  - CLIF Project Information Form: Purpose & Intent
  - FY24 Budget with Supplemental
  - YTD Spending
  - Line-by-line Draft CLIF Project Information Form review

Prepared by: Chris Firehock, Ethan Cohen

### **Attendees – (All Participating Online)**

LDC Members and Proxies (\* -- Denotes Proxy)

- James Alston
- Paula Benson-Smith
- Peggy Jackson-Jobe
- Michael Murphy
- \* Casey O'Neil
- Phyllicia Porter -- LDC Vice-Chair & District 10 Councilmember
- Minister Willie Pack
- Alexandria Warrick-Adams

Staff:

- Ethan Cohen: Baltimore City Department of Planning
- Chris Firehock: Baltimore City Department of Planning
- Tyler McCurdy: Senator Ferguson's Office

**Meeting called to order by Councilwoman Porter (Vice-Chair) at 6:10 PM**

### **1) Welcome and Introductions, Meeting Goals**

- a) Meeting opened by Councilwoman Porter
- b) Quorum established once eight (8) members joined.
- c) Presentation of the agenda (see above).
- d) Meeting was turned over to Chris Firehock to lead the presentation.

## 2) Casino Local Impact Fund (CLIF) Program Update

### a) FY23 Year-End Report Preview – Discussion:

- Ethan Cohen noted that the under-spending for Baltimore Police Department in FY23 was an adjustment made by the Department of Finance for an accidental ~\$273K over-charge in FY22.
- FY23 Year-End Report will be sent to LDC before the May 15, 2024, meeting.

### b) FY24 Budget Supplemental Update – Discussion:

- Chris Firehock shared that the FY24 Supplemental was not submitted to the Board of Estimates (BOE) for approval. CLIF staff is working with the Department of Finance towards a resolution for appropriating these funds as previously discussed with the LDC.

### c) FY25 Budget Update

- FY25 Draft Spending Plan was endorsed by LDC 12/12/2023
- Forwarded to the Administration (Mayor's Office) in January
- New: proposed change by Administration:
  - Reallocate funding from Baltimore Police Department (BPD) Casino Sub-District
  - Shift \$500,000 to address Solo Gibbs Park funding gap
  - Balance to support security in "Walk@Warner" Street Entertainment District.
  - Discussion-
    - Michael Murphy shared concern that this could reduce BPD resources needed to adequately cover the entertainment district and serve the rest of Southern District.
    - James Alston requested more information on how it was determined how to reallocate the funds (to parks projects versus other needs).
    - Several LDC members requested more information on the process for reallocating funds after the LDC has voted on the spending plan submitted by the administration.

## 3) Review FY24 YTD Activity

### a) CLIF Project Information Form: Purpose & Intent

- Chris shared that CLIF Project Info Forms will ensure that LDC members, CLIF staff, agencies, and grantees share expectations for programs and projects each fiscal year.
- They are in "soft launch" mode for FY24; LDC input is requested for formalizing what information the forms should contain for use in FY25.
- LDC members will have the opportunity to review and provide suggestions for desired outcomes and reporting metrics in preparation for FY25.
- A new Program Committee will be formed and chaired by LDC Vice-Chair Porter -- will meet once or twice before May 15, 2024, LDC meeting to review the draft Project Information Form and advise on structure and content.
- Updated info forms will be presented by Program Committee at the May 15 meeting.

b) FY24 Budget with Supplemental

- Chris reviewed the FY24 Budget, including the proposed Supplemental Appropriation.

c) YTD Spending

- Chris presented an overview of FY24 year-to-date (YTD) spending.

d) Line-by-line Draft CLIF Project Information Form review

- Chris presented the FY24 Detailed Budget and YTD Expenditures, Scope of Work, Timeline, and Performance Metrics for each FY24 CLIF line item.
- Discussion/ LDC feedback includes:
  - Multiple members shared interest in refining metrics for projects, including utilizing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) goal parameters.
  - Casey requested more detail on the Warner Street capital project timeline and budget. James and Paula echoed that request.
  - Councilwoman Porter details and timeframes for CitiWatch projects were requested.
  - James requested FY24 Budget information in Excel, if available.
  - Michael Murphy expressed that South Baltimore Neighborhood Association (SBNA) was not getting updates about Reimagine Middle Branch.
    - Ethan stated that SBNA is requested to have a representative on the Community Advisory Committee and would look into confirming who is the representative or if that slot is not active.
    - Also, anyone can get involved sign up as an individual for updates at <https://www.reimaginemb.com/get-involved> -- where people can register for email news alerts.
    - The RMB initiative is looking to expand the Community Advisory Board. Contact Jazmin Kimble of the Department of Planning at [Jazmin.Kimble@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Jazmin.Kimble@baltimorecity.gov).
  - Chris mentioned that the current Solo Gibbs Park Master Plan does not appear to be on the City's Department of Recreation and Parks website, and he will look into posting it on the LDC/CLIF website or providing it to members.
  - Ethan shared details on broadband and Citiwatch expansion projects for Westport and Westport Homes due to be completed by June 1. Details will be added to the presentation slide deck from this meeting.

e) Wrap-up

- Further discussion on metrics was discussed. All LDC members are welcome to contribute. Chris will initiate conversations with individual LDC members until the Program Committee meetings are set and online collaboration site is created.
- Vice-Chair Porter ended the meeting by encouraging CLIF staff and LDC members to continue pursuing transparency and accountability for CLIF programs.

**Meeting adjourned by Councilwoman Phylicia Porter (Vice-Chair) at 6:40 PM**