

Baltimore Local Development Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting held July 30, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30PM  
Baltimore City Department of Planning  
417 E. Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Attendance:**

LDC Members: Keisha Allen, James Alston, Leonard Bush, Kia Calloway (for Councilman Edward Reisinger), Del. Luke Clippinger, Alex Dixon, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Rev. Alvin Gwynn (Vice-Chair), Samuel Himmelrich, Andrew Gervase, Ian Neuman (for Wayne Vance), Karl Heinz Murray (for Richard Parker), Sharon Reuter (for Bill Reuter), Garrett Schiche

*Quorum Present: Yes*

City/Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator); Brent Flickinger and Theo Ngongang—Department of Planning; Lt. Samuel Hood and Maj. Brian Hance, Baltimore Police Department.

Public: Shanna Bittner Borell, Jameson Chalmers, Clare Elliott (Paul's Place), Ben Hyman (Pigtown Main Street), Lyneisha Jackson, Del. Antonio Hayes, Bill Marker (Barre Circle), Michael Middleton (Cherry Hill Development Corp.),

**Proceedings:**

- 1) Chair, Senator Bill Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming LDC members, guests and the public.
- 2) Minutes from the meeting on May 27, 2015, were approved unanimously.
- 3) LDC Membership:
  - a) Sen. Ferguson asked Ethan Cohen to report on the Ethics training, which occurred June 23, 2015. Ethan reminded members that they must file a Conflicts Affidavit with the Baltimore City Ethics Board, in addition to the financial disclosure filing.
- 4) Sub-Committee Reports
  - a) Ethan spoke about the meeting with Mayor's Office of Information Technology and consultants on the Casino Area broadband/fiber study that took place with the Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee on June 10.
  - b) Keisha Allen reported that the Public Safety and Services Sub-Committee did not meet since May. She presented the crime stats reports from the second quarter of 2015 and a revised report for the first quarter (correcting the timeframe of the report presented in May report).
    - i) Garrett Schiche noted that crime was up in South Baltimore Neighborhood area and asked if that effect may be tracked to the casino.
    - ii) Ethan pointed to the fact that overall crime was down since the casino opened (comparing the same periods in 2014 and 2015) and the extra patrols were added from the CMD.
    - iii) Capt. Brian Hance echoed that these statistics need to be read in context; some reported incidents in South Baltimore were domestic, for instance, and overall the

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numbers are still quite low, reflecting that South Baltimore is still a safe neighborhood.

- iv) Sen. Ferguson thanked Capt. Hance and the Southern District for their hard work.
  - c) There was no report from the Sanitation, Transportation and Infrastructure Sub-Committee.
  - d) Pastor Gwynn reminded members to watch for their emails about upcoming meetings of Sub-Committees for work on the Master Plan and Spending Plan.
- 5) Old Business – FY'16 Spending Plan
- a) Ethan noted that the change reallocating \$100,000 from Community Projects to Youth jobs will be voted on by the Board of Estimates in August.
  - b) He also noted that in members' packets are the final revised FY'15 budget, which reflects actual Local Impact Grant funds received as of June 30, 2015, and the FY'16 budget revised to reflect the reallocation above.
- 6) Reporting on FY'15 Local Impact Grant (LIG) initiatives
- a) Ethan reported on year-end revenues: \$5.93 million was the final amount of LIG funds received, which is less than the \$6 million predicted at the time of the Mayor's final FY'16 Spending Plan submitted in April; however, due to actual savings against estimates from that time, the lesser amount does not adversely affect the revised budget for FY'15. The final figure also exceeds the initial projection of \$5.8 million, as of December 2014, following the opening.
  - b) Senator Ferguson noted that the "unallocated reserve" at year-end could be considered for uses listed in Tier 2 for FY'16, such as the Complete Streets Plan's Parking Study. Pastor Gwynn commented that the LDC should have a discussion at the next meeting about Tier 2 priorities for FY'16.
  - c) Ethan highlighted some points of the final accounting and progress on funded initiatives during the fourth quarter of FY'15:
    - i) "Carry-forward" funding is available for committed projects and initiatives totaling \$1.04 million; these include current contracts for services, Community Enhancement Projects and start-up of the Community Benefits District.
    - ii) Savings in operations or contracts totaled \$217,000 (from April's budget revisions), due to the delayed start of the Employment Connection Center, and from operating savings in traffic enforcement, EMS, solid waste and the Project Coordinator after final accounting.
    - iii) The results include increased funding for the Community Benefits District, carried-forward at the maximum appropriation possible of \$150,000, and a "funded reserve" of \$61,000.
  - iv) Fourth Quarter highlights:
    - (1) Employment Connection Center: "ribbon-cutting" and official opening July 20, following a "soft opening" at the end of April.

- (2) Construction Training: Project JumpStart's first class started with seven CIA residents; recruiting is starting now for September. Help is needed by LDC and other community representatives to get a strong pool of candidates.
  - (3) Summer Youth Jobs (FY'16 funding): Placements for 384 Casino Impact Area youth.
  - (4) Early Childhood Education (\$160,000 FY'16): 145 summer Head Start students served at Catholic Charities Head Start Centers in Pigtown, Sharp-Leadenhall, Cherry Hill
  - (5) Fiber Study: Meetings with stakeholder groups and LDC in June; needs assessment report is expected in August.
- v) In reviewing the costs for housing the Casino Mini-District, a question was raised by Ian Neuman about the charge for removing the construction trailer set-up, and whether that was justified since payment was made for moving the trailers in December, and because removal would be an inherent cost associated with the construction of the Casino.
- d) Ethan presented an update and timeline on the Community Benefits District with the goal of completing the study by January, passing legislation and beginning operations by July 2016.
- 7) Workshop on the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan and "Implementation Matrix":
- a) An introduction and "charge" to the LDC on the Master Plan were presented by Theo Ngongang and Brent Flickinger of the Department of Planning, addressing the outline and structure of the plan and the timeline for the public review and comment period (anticipated mid-August through Mid-September), a public information session in September and adoption by the Planning Commission in October, 2015.
  - b) In a sub-committee work session (45 minutes, starting around 7:40), each group was assigned three of the nine goals with which to review the matrix and narratives for the appropriateness of their timeframes and language. Each group agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to continue working on this effort before the end of the comment period.

**8) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**

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