

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:30-8:00PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendance -- LDC Members:

Keisha Allen, Thomas Cassella, Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Alvin Lee, Bill Reuter, Garrett Schiche, Wayne Vance, Beth Whitmer

Quorum Present: Yes

Baltimore City Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Mayor's Office, Liaison to LDC); Brent Flickinger (Department of Planning); Muriel Rich (DPW Bureau of Solid Waste); Lt. Craig Hartman (BPD); Deputy Chief Mark Fletcher (BCFD Medic Services); Mary Sloat and Davi Peterson (MOED); Mary Beth Haller (Health) and Jennifer Brause (BARCs); Javon Harris (Councilman Ed Reisinger's office).

Proceedings:

- 1) Sen. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.
- 2) Minutes were presented for meetings on September 19, 2017, and October 26, 2017. It was noted that there was no quorum at the October 26 meeting. Senator Ferguson noted a change in the public comments for the September 19 meeting from the version that was first sent out. Minutes were reviewed and accepted (unanimously).
- 3) Senator Ferguson reviewed the schedule and other housekeeping issues: reminding members and proxies of ethics training for those new members who are still required to complete it; committee reports were tabled; the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2017, if needed to vote on the FY'19 Spending Plan.
- 4) Garrett Schiche announced he will be ending his service at the end of the year because he has moved and is no longer on the board of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association. As allowed under the operating procedures, he will serve through the end of 2017.
- 5) Senator Ferguson noted that all LDC members need to be reappointed for 2018 and should indicate their interests in continuing to serve by reapplying (Ethan will circulate the application). Anyone not interesting in serving again should contact him so that the LDC and Mayor's Office can look for replacements.
- 6) Ethan introduced the Administration's draft spending plan for FY'19, presenting a memo and detailed budget table that were circulated via email on November 28, 2017. Sen. Ferguson led the discussion of the budget line by line. Some agency representatives were on hand to comment.
 - a) Muriel Rich of DPW Bureau of Solid Waste reviewed a presentation (see attached) on the enhanced services provided with the Local Impact Grant funding, highlighting the cleaning of the Middle Branch shoreline and waterway north of I-395 and the CSX Swing Bridge (Ridgely's Cove and Swann Park). In the discussion that followed, Wayne Vance asked if BSW can create an adopt-a-block program. Ms. Rich offered to look into it.
 - b) Lt. Craig Hartman reported on the status of the Police Department Casino Entertainment Sub-District's move to the Horseshoe Casino property, which occurred in August.
 - i) Garrett asked the status of the investigation of overtime theft in the CESD and how accountability is now better ensured. Sen. Ferguson noted that this was part of a citywide investigation; Ethan stated that restitution will be sought from the officers

- involved (only one in the CESD was charged). Tom Cassella stated that Horseshoe Casino was one of the parties that presented evidence, and he believed the problem rested only with the officer who was dismissed. He reported that a trial will be held; however the charges focus on a limited duration when the evidence of misconduct was found to justify the charges. Therefore, the full scope or “cost” of the issue may not be known or revealed through the criminal trial.
- ii) Ethan noted that Major Stephen Ward, Southern District Commander, has become more involved in the oversight of the CESD since these charges came to light. Per Ward’s instructions, the extra funding that was awarded to the CESD for neighborhood patrols were not fully expended, as he ceased that operation around June 1. Approximately \$68,000 of the \$120,000 budgeted was not used and was disencumbered to help balance the overall budget shortfall in FY’17.
- c) Fire Department Deputy Chief Mark Fletcher gave a presentation on the enhanced medic services provided in the South Baltimore Gateway (SBG)/Casino Impact Area (CIA) using Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds (see attached). He cited the dramatic increase in call volume citywide and in this area from 2015 to 2017. The figure is 15% citywide. The figure for the increase in the number of incidents within the CIA is not yet known and must be studied further (the agency lost its GIS analyst and must make the request for data analysis from the Office of Information Technology).
- i) LIG funds have supported a “PEAK” medic unit (operating 9AM to 9PM) staffed with Advanced Life Support (“ALS”) personnel working on overtime basis since FY’15.
 - ii) The Department proposes to shift resources from the PEAK ALS unit to supporting two (2) “BLS” (Basic Life Support) units in the CIA. More specific information on the service requests in the CIA and the cost implications of this change will be provided.
- d) Ethan noted that the homebuyer counseling and incentive program has not started, but that the Administration and Housing are working to get that underway in the next quarter.
- e) Mary Sloat spoke to the proposed budgets for continuing the Employment Connection Center and the support for training, which funds the JumpStart construction pre-apprentice training and “ITA’s” or individual training accounts.
- i) Andrew Gervase asked if the ECC has a social media presence. Others requested that notices of opportunities be distributed via social media in addition to email, making it easier for community leaders to repost to their pages.
 - ii) Pastor Gwynn complimented the new outreach efforts in going “door to door.”
 - iii) Keisha Allen recommended an advertising campaign in South Baltimore, utilizing bus stops and other local, highly visible ad placements.
- f) Liza Frye of Catholic Charities reported on the Summer Head Start initiative, having completed its third year at centers in Cherry Hill, Pigtown and Westport (new in 2017). Summer 2017 programs served 177 children, using a combination of reallocated City LIG funds and South Baltimore Gateway Partnership funds totaling \$200,000. The City’s recommended budget for FY’19 (\$100,000) would support approximately 110 students.
- g) Chris Rafferty, Deputy Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, discussed a new initiative to coordinate “street outreach” on homelessness citywide. LIG funds

budgeted in FY'18 and proposed for FY'19 will be used to create an intensive focus dedicated solely in the South Baltimore Gateway area, supported by the citywide program staff. Ethan indicated that MOHS will provide a detailed write-up on the program for the LDC to review.

- h) Ethan reported that \$200,000 is budgeted for increasing the buildout of Citiwatch cameras in the SBG area, split equally between lines for installing the communications infrastructure ("fiber") under MOIT (Information Technology) and the equipment and labor for the cameras themselves under MOCJ (Criminal Justice). Funds are flexible to move between these two budget lines as needed in construction.
- 7) Senator Ferguson introduced Mary Beth Haller and Jennifer Brause from the Health Department and BARCs respectively to make a presentation on a proposed new facility for Animal Services and BARCs, enabling the relocation of the city's animal shelter from Stockholm Street. The Administration has recommended using \$2.5 million from FY'19 LIG funds towards construction of a new community facility for these programs.
- a) Alvin Lee asked if sites have been considered outside of the SBG/CIA, and also what types of community opposition have been raised in neighborhoods thus far.
 - i) Sites across the city were considered, involving both retrofit of existing buildings and new construction. Jen Brause reported that most of the opposition has involved questions and misperceptions about the facility. Once the project was explained, community residents' views were more favorable.
 - b) Pastor Gwynn asked about timing and whether an interim facility is being considered.
 - i) The timeline is to construct the facility as soon as possible, once a site can be finalized. The city is not planning on moving the programs to an interim facility.
 - c) Wayne Vance asked what the total budget for the project is.
 - i) The budget relies on a sale price of \$7 million for the city-owned land occupied by the current facility. Recent analyses give the City confidence that an adequate facility can be created for \$14 million.
 - d) Garrett asked how the cost for the land was determined.
 - i) The property was appraised.
 - e) Beth Whitmer asked where the rest of the funding will come from.
 - i) Ethan clarified that the City plans to match the amount of the sale price with approximately \$7 million in LIG funds, programmed over three years (FY'19-'21).
- 8) General discussion on spending plan and next steps:
- a) Sen. Ferguson stated that the LDC has 45 days to review and comment on the draft spending plan. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20th, if needed. He asked members to review the proposed budget and send him questions.
 - b) Pastor Gwynn stated his view that site selection seems critical to knowing the cost and timeframe for the BARCs/Animal Care facility. Sen. Ferguson stated that more information is needed for the meeting on December 20th.
 - c) Ethan offered to obtain a proposal on the homelessness initiative for December 20th.
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Next meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2017