

Baltimore Local Development Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:30-7:00PM  
MedStar Harbor Hospital  
3001 S. Hanover St., Baltimore 21225

**Attendance at LDC Meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

LDC Members:

Keisha Allen, Len Bush, Del. Luke Clippinger, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Jacqueline Grace, Del. Antonio Hayes, Aparna Jain, Jill Johnson, Alvin Lee, Michael Murphy, Bill Reuter, Wayne Vance

*Quorum Present: Yes*

Public, South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (SBGP) and other partnering organization representatives

- Betty Bland-Thomas
- Donne L. Davis
- Linda Davis
- Rebecca Davis (University of Maryland Baltimore)
- Jillian Drummond (SBGP)
- Renata Fries
- Liza Frye (Catholic Charities Head Start)
- Shakira Garcia (Horseshoe Casino Baltimore)
- Avery Harmon
- Jason Israel (SBGP)
- Joe Levy
- Erica Pitkow (SBGP)
- Mark Reutter (Press, Baltimore Brew)
- Brad Rogers (SBGP)
- Julia Scott (University of Maryland Baltimore)
- Ron Stubblefield (SBGP)
- Kalem Umrani

Baltimore City Agency Representatives:

- Capt. Monique Brown (Baltimore Police Department)
- Joseph Carella (MOIT)
- Abby Cocke (Office of Sustainability)
- Ethan Cohen (Mayor's Office, Liaison to LDC)
- Liam Davis (Office of City Council President)
- Kristin Dawson (Baltimore Development Corp.)
- Laura Flamm (Health Department)
- Derrell Frazier (Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice)
- Lt. Craig Hartman (Baltimore Police Department)
- Daisy Heartberg (Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice)
- Lenora Henry (Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts)
- Ira Kowler (Baltimore Development Corp.)

- Valorie Lacour (Transportation)
- Jenny Morgan (Recreation and Parks)
- David Mitchell (Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts)
- Davi Peterson (Employment Development)
- Emily Sollenberger (Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts)
- Tonya Simmons (Public Works)
- Mary Sloat (Employment Development)
- William Vondrasek (Recreation and Parks)
- Randi Vega (Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts)
- Maj. Steven Ward (Baltimore Police Department)

Proceedings:

- 1) Senator Ferguson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. welcoming members, City agency representatives and the public. LDC members introduced themselves.
- 2) Minutes from the LDC meeting on April 26, 2017, were approved unanimously.
- 3) Ethan Cohen presented a brief recap on requirements for filing under the City Ethics Law, which applies to the LDC members, the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership Board of Directors, and proxies for both groups. He noted that LDC members should assume that their designated proxies are able to represent them on both bodies. The three requirements are: an online financial disclosure form due for the prior year by April 30 each year; completing the Conflicts Affidavit (one-time); participating in training on the Ethics Law. Ethan provided instructions as to which members still need to complete each requirement.
- 4) Ethan briefly reported on the activities of the three committees since the April LDC meeting, and presented slides of the Master Plan/Spending Plan “Goals” that each committee oversees. The committees are Sanitation, Transportation and Infrastructure; Public Safety and Services; Economic and Community Development.
- 5) Sen. Ferguson reviewed the meeting schedule through the rest of the year as posted on the agenda (10/26, 11/30 and 12/20). The main focus for these meetings will be the FY’19 Spending Plan.
- 6) Sen. Ferguson presented the FY’17 fourth quarter “dashboard” report on the expenditures of Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds. He stated that the LDC was now at a transition point of completing the third and last fiscal year when all LIG were managed by the City and starting FY’18 when 50% are managed directly by the SBGP. He further stated that the dashboard was a useful tool for planning for FY’19 and determining which initiatives would be continued by either the City or the SBGP.
- 7) Sen. Ferguson led a review of each budget item in the report, with a more focused discussion on the following agencies and initiatives:
  - a) Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA):
    - i) Sen. Ferguson cited the work of BOPA as an example of initiatives that have not received funding through the LDC for FY’18 and are seeking support from the SBGP.
    - ii) He directed members to the cultural planning document produced by BOPA included in their packets and praised the report. David Mitchell of BOPA and Ethan both spoke to how the plan, produced with LIG funds, relates to initiatives already funded, such as grants for events and arts projects, while speaking to greater needs and opportunities around arts, cultural and heritage planning in the communities of the South Baltimore Gateway.
  - b) Baltimore Police Department

- i) At the request of Jill Johnson, Major Steven Ward, Southern District Commander, spoke to general issues of crime in the SBG. He reported that in many areas, such as Pigtown, crime was down due to arrests. He cited problems with robberies in other areas that they are working to address. He cited recurring challenges with residents and businesses complaining of panhandling and homelessness, which are not policing issues per se. Wayne Vance cited an apparent rise in drug use on the street in the Carroll-Camden Industrial Area. Maj. Ward requested that communities contact him directly about these quality of life and social issues, rather than going through 911, so that BPD can address them more holistically in cooperation with the appropriate social services.
  - ii) Major Ward also spoke to terminating the extra patrols of the Casino-Entertainment Sub-District that had been proposed by Lt. Bagshaw and started at the beginning of the year. He cited success in addressing crime in areas like Pigtown and Westport under coordination efforts of the Southern District. He reported on the relocation of the CESD to the garage of the Horseshoe Casino, effective in August, which will bring greater efficiency to that operation.
- c) Citiwatch surveillance cameras:
- i) Data was requested on the still-photography dumping cameras purchased at the end of FY16 by the Department of Housing's Code Enforcement Division, Special Investigation Unit (SIU).
  - ii) Subsequent to the meeting, Ethan received data as follows:
    - (1) From June through August 2016, 25 cameras were deployed at known dumping locations in the SBGP.
    - (2) SIU conducts an investigation into every dumping caught on camera and will issue \$500 and \$1000 citations or refer the matter to one of the Assistant State's Attorneys in the Permits and Code Enforcement Legal Section for criminal charges.
    - (3) From July 2016 through June 2017, 36 citations were issued and 28 cases were referred to the State's Attorney's office.
- d) Mayor's Office of Employment Development:
- i) Senator Ferguson pointed to a two-year report on the Employment Connection Center.
  - ii) Sen. Ferguson and Jill Johnson requested clarification of costs listed under supplies and equipment in the dashboard report. Mary Sloat, Assistant Director of MOED, responded that many of these were one-time costs for the expansion of the center (construction, new computers, etc.) related to hiring additional staff and increasing program space.
  - iii) Mary cited key statistics on outcomes documented in the two-year report. Del. Hayes requested to know if the Center tracks retention of customers placed in jobs. Mary stated that MOED could contract with the state for a service that would provide this data. Ethan commented that the City would look into this as a possible expenditure.
- e) Education programs:
- i) Summer Head Start -- Liza Frye thanked the LDC for its combined FY17 and FY18 funding that supported slots for 177 children this summer in an eight-week, Head Start-style program. This summer, one classroom was added at Westport Academy in addition to the two sites in Cherry Hill and one in Pigtown that were recurring from the two prior years.
  - ii) Senator Ferguson noted that collaborations with the Public Allies program of University of Maryland School of Social Work and Reading Partners do not have renewed funding for

FY18 through the LDC, and these programs have sought funding from the SBGP. Ethan commented that the dashboard report cites impressive outcomes for both programs.

- f) DOT Complete Streets:
  - i) Valorie Lacour, Director of Planning for DOT, reported briefly on the Complete Streets Plan and implementation projects.
  - ii) Ethan noted that the South Baltimore Parking Study will be presented at a public meeting on October 23. Subsequent to the meeting this date was moved back to November 13.
- 8) Reporting on revenue and FY'18 Spending Plan
  - a) Ethan presented a revised budget for the FY17 and FY18 spending plans based on reduced LIG revenue actually received for FY17 and projected for FY18. The increase in LIG funds coming to the SBG following the opening of the MGM Grand Casino was below the figure projected by the state when the FY17 Spending Plan was created (fall 2015) or by the beginning of 2017 when the FY18 budget was set. The total reduction is \$2.4 million projected over both years (from \$18.85 million to \$16.47 million).
  - b) Jackie Grace asked if there would be an opportunity to study the choices for which programs were cut and analyze how this process could inform future years' planning. Sen. Ferguson stated that would be part of the next meeting on October 26, 2017.
- 9) There were no public comments.
- 10) Then meeting was adjourned at 7PM.

**Next meeting: Scheduled for October 26, 2017**