

MINUTES**SPECIAL MEETING**

Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President
Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor
Honorable Joan M. Pratt, Comptroller and Secretary
Rudolph S. Chow, Director of Public Works
Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Dana P. Moore, Deputy City Solicitor
Matthew Garbark, Deputy Director of Public Works
Bernice H. Taylor, Deputy Comptroller and Clerk

President: "Good afternoon. The June 11, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board of Estimates is now called to order. In the interest of promoting the order and efficiency of these hearings, persons who are disrupted to the hearing will be asked to leave the hearing room. Meetings of the Board of Estimates are open to the public for the duration of the meeting. The hearing room must be vacated at the conclusion of the meeting. Failure to comply may result in a charge of trespassing. To start, I would like to give an overview of this meeting's agenda. We will receive the report by the City Council on the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating and Capital Budget Ordinance. Then the Board will adopt and certify the Real and Personal Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2019 [sic: 2020]. At this time, I would like to recognize members of the City Council who have joined us, join me here today: Councilman

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Costello. That it? Before we proceed, we received a protest, but that individual is not here. Thank you. Now I would like to recognize the Councilman Eric Costello, Chair the Budget and Appropriations Committee, who will present the adopted budget to the Board."

Councilman Eric Costello: "Thank You Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Madam Comptroller, members of the Board of Estimates um."

Mayor: "Let him present first"

President: "Present first Mr. Chair."

Councilman Eric Costello: "I'm pleased to report that the City Council Budget Appropriations Committee, as well as the entire City Council, has passed the Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. Mr. President, I'd like to specifically thank you and your staff as well as you Mr. Mayor for being so willing to work with the City Council on our shared priorities impacting our young people. We truly appreciate it. We look forward to working together in continuing to move along a continuum of collaboration to get more done for the betterment of our city. I'm happy to answer any questions Mr. President."

President: "Thank you. Questions? Ms. Trueheart we received your protest. Would you like to come forward now?"

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Ms. Kim Trueheart: "I absolutely would."

President: "Mr. Chairman Costello, don't go too far."

Ms. Trueheart: "Good afternoon."

President: "Good afternoon Ms. Trueheart."

Ms. Trueheart: "My name is Kim Trueheart. I was born and raised in this city. What was passed by the City Council earlier is a travesty. It absolutely offends me and it offends a lot of other people. It is a disappointment that you as a black man sitting next to a black woman and another black man and another black man and a brown man are sitting here right playing games with the lives of the people in this city. You think we can police our way out of the disinvestment in this city. You're wrong. You're absolutely wrong. The Police Department is part of the problem. You don't get that. That is so obvious to everybody in this city that the department is corrupt, but yet, you keep putting more money in their hands. You act like it's going solve some problem. It will never solve the problems of this city until we decide to invest in the people of this city, to heal the people who have been harmed by the abj-- just the ignorant stuff that y' all pass in budgets."

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You intentionally inflict harm on people, by your actions as well as your inactions and the fact that you don't get that, or don't want to get it. Just as you don't belong in that chair, and neither does the dude next to you."

Mayor: "Um, excuse me. I'm not a dude. Okay."

President: "Mister Mayor, Mister Mayor."

Mayor: "Give me respect. Okay."

President: "Calm down."

Ms. Trueheart: "Yeah, you should have act like it with the budget, dude."

Mayor: "I'm just going to set her straight. She comes in here--"

President: "Shh, Shh."

Mayor: "being disrespectful to this Board and you're not going to call me a dude--"

President: "Mr. Mayor."

Ms. Trueheart: "Act like a mayor."

President: "Thank You Ms. Trueheart."

Mayor: "You act like a citizen."

Ms. Trueheart: "The other thing--"

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President: "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor: "Hey Brandon, please don't do that. She needs to act like a citizen too. Come in here and call us ignorant."

President: "Mr. Mayor."

Ms. Trueheart: "I haven't called you ignorant yet. I said the ignorant things that you've done."

Mayor: "That's calling me ignorant."

Ms. Trueheart: "Well okay, wear it. Our children deserve investments. The fact that there is a new Office of Children and Family Success warranted an investment in it. Because it indicated that we were shifting the way we think about investing in children but yet you fail to invest. Doesn't make sense. We continue to invest in failed strategies. Doesn't take a Rocket Scientist to figure this out, but yet each and every opportunity that the members of the Council and this Board get to right the wrongs, you continue down the wrong path. You said, 'We should have hope.' Hope in what? Hope that you're going continue the failed strategies because that's the only hope I see. I don't see any hope that our children will be healed. You invest twelve percent of this budget, maybe thirteen percent, in our children and yet you're willing to

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invest almost three times that amount in police. That makes no sense. Absolutely none. The outcomes, if you are looking at outcomes, belie where you put the money. Doesn't make any sense. No logic. There are some people in this city who are fed up, who are tired, who fight every day for the uplifting of our children. It's not just me, and I might be the only one who can show up at three o'clock in the afternoon because everybody else got jobs, but I'm going keep showing up, and I'm going to keep saying how wrong it is. Right is right. There is nothing right about what this budget says, what it does and--"

President: "Ms. Trueheart, I'm going ask you to-- to wrap it up."

Ms. Trueheart: "I'll wrap it up."

President: "Thank you."

Ms. Trueheart: "Because you don't want to hear, because you're not going do anything different. I intend to ensure you do not become Mayor. Got that. Promise this day."

President: "Thank you Ms. Truehart. I would like to now recognize Mr. Bob Cenname, Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research."

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Robert Cename: "Hi. Good afternoon Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, members of the Board my name is Bob Cename, Budget Director for the City and I'm asking today for the Board of Estimates to confirm the tax rates for Fiscal 20. So now that the Council has passed the ordina-- Ordinance of Estimates, we can confirm that the tax rates for Fiscal 20. There are two. The Real Property Tax Rate will be \$2.248, per hundred dollars of assessed value. The Personal Property Tax Rate will be \$5.62, per hundred dollars of assessed value. So we're asking the Board of Estimates to confirm those rates so they can bring them back to the Council for third reader. Thank you."

President: "Thank you. At this time, I will open the floor to the Mayor or any other member of the Board who wishes to speak."

Mayor: "Thank you Mr. President and a good afternoon to everyone and thank you very much for being here. I'd like to begin by thanking President Scott; the Budget Chair, Costello; Vice-President Pinkett, and the members of the City Council for thoughtfully considering the City's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal. The council collectively spent more than fifty hours in committee hearings during the course of the past week and what

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resulted is a budget that reflects our commitment to working in collaboratively. I want to also thank the countless citizens who attended budget workshops and also participated in the Council process. At this time I'd like to share a couple of highlights from the Fiscal 2020 Budget. First on Public Safety, this budget represents a key step forward in modernizing-- modernizing our Police Department. We're investing in technology and equipment we're rolling out a new patrol schedule, and we are professionalizing key administrative functions all in an effort to make our Police Department more efficiently. On education and youth, the Fiscal 2020 Budget marks the third year of an extraordinary bridge fund gap -- bridge funding commitment to city schools. Total City support for schools will exceed \$375,000,000.00 this year as we work with our state partners on a long term funding strategies for education. We also have an unprecedented commitment to open our rec centers on Saturdays. This marked the first time in recent memory that our centers will be open Saturdays to our young people. Working with members of the City Council we're making an investment in our children that we should all be proud of. The Capital Budget includes \$627,000,000.00

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of investment and critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, recreation centers, housing development, water and wastewater, and information technology upgrades among many others. General Fund support for capital projects is at the highest level in over a decade. Finally, I'm pleased to announce that we have met a key milestone in our 26 --, our 20 cents by 2020 Property Tax Reduction efforts. This program has now reduced effective tax rates for home owner occupied properties by twenty cents. The average home owner is now saving over three hundred dollars annually on their tax bill from this program. This is a responsible budget that invests in services that our citizens deserved while maintaining faithful to Baltimore's tradition of sound fiscal management and again Mr. President I want to thank you the chairman of the Budget Committee for working with my team to make sure that we were able to put things in there to reflect our commitment to our young people. Open the rec centers on Saturdays, expanding the hours, and also the 29th Street rec center up there, which is not ran by the rec center, but ran by a non-profit where we put money into that as

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well and numerous other things that we're doing to enhance opportunities for young people. So, I want to thank you and the Council for the hard work and dedication to get this budget done. Thank you"

President: "Thank you. Madam Comptroller."

Comptroller: "Yes. Thank you Mr. President. I also thank the Mayor, the City Council, and the Department of Finance for all of the hard work and effort that culminates with the passing of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. Today, the Board will approve the Fiscal 2020 Ordinance of Estimates, which comprises among other things, the City's Operating and Capital Budgets along with the City's Real and Personal Property Tax Rates. The leadership and the employees of the City of Baltimore will utilize and-- will utilize the Operating and Capital Budgets to continue to provide services to our communities and to spur growth and development in the areas of affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization workforce development, and public education. Continued support of our public schools through bridge funding is in the third and final year of our \$90,000,000.00 commitment which is in addition to annual recurring funding along with increased capital funding for

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building and system repair and maintenance demonstrates this City's investment in our future. This City's contribution -- this year's contribution of \$38,500,000.00 is expected to strengthen the financial condition of the Baltimore City Public Schools. State funding commitments are intended to continue these efforts that the City has undertaken for the past three years. We look forward to and expect the school system to be good financial stewards of their resources, which support the goal of a quality education for our youth. The Mayor's Capital Budget Program, which it exceeds \$627,000,000.00 provides investments in the areas previously mentioned and also in our utility infrastructure, public transit, and libraries. These investments will improve the quality of life for our citizens. Our investments in community and commercial development projects will serve to create job opportunities for our citizens and to develop economic activity in the form of revenues that support a variety of city services. Lastly, the recently experienced ransomware attack on the City's IT infrastructure and system, serves as a wake-up call that we must keep abreast of the prevention and protection efforts needed to

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safeguard our systems to the greatest extent possible. Not only does IT help City government employees perform their daily tasks of organizing, reporting, and distributing information but it provides the ability for citizens and businesses to quickly, accurately, and conveniently access information, request services, and make payments on obligations to the City. IT infrastructure and systems is not something that gets talked about under normal conditions, but when they are impaired it adversely affects all of us. I support the appropriate level investment in our IT infrastructure and systems to mitigate the potential of future attacks on our great City. Thank you Mr. President, Mr. Mayor. Let's continue the work of moving the city of Baltimore forward along with the support of our City Council, our employees, and our citizens. Thank you again."

President: "Thank you. Thank you Madam Comptroller. Thank You Mr. Mayor. I would like to thank the Mayor, the Comptroller, the Finance Department, our hard-working City Council members. I know the Chairman Costello is here. Councilman Dorsey has joined us as well and my staff who worked so hard with the passage of this year's budget. I came into office just over a month ago. Right in

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the middle of budget season. This budget is one that the Mayor inherited and I inherited the budget process of a budget that was already in the works, but immediately I recognized there were things that we can do to make this budget work better for our young people. First and foremost, we recognized the need to have recreation centers open on Saturdays. I'm proud that we secured an agreement with the Mayor to identify nearly \$3,000,000.00 in funding so that we can have more recreational opportunities for our city's youth on weekends. Mr. Mayor, thank you for remaining at the negotiating table, and for being a great partner and advocate for our young people. Madam Comptroller, I also want to thank you for your support in moving this budget forward. Chairman Costello, thank you for your hard work during these budget negotiations. Your attention to detail is not only impressive but important. I would also like to thank the entire Budget and Appropriations Committee, and the entire Council for working together to get us to the finish line, and lastly, I would like to thank the members of the public who participated in this year's process. We're grateful for your participation and believe that

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your involvement is ultimately represented in today's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you all. Mr. Mayor I will entertain a motion to certify the tax rate."

Mayor: "Mr. President, I move to certify the Real Property Tax Rate at \$2.48 [sic] \$2.248 of \$100.00 of assessed value and the prop -- the Personal Property Tax Rate of \$5.620 per \$100.00 of assessed value to support the budget for Fiscal Year 2020."

Comptroller: "I second."

President: "I have a motion and a second to approve the certification of the Fiscal Year 2020 Real Property Tax Rate at \$2.248 to \$100.00 of assessed value and Personal Property Tax Rate at \$5.620 per \$100.00 of assessed value. All those in favor say aye."

Mayor: "Aye."

Comptroller: "Aye."

City Solicitor: "Aye."

DPW Director: "Aye."

President: "All opposed say nay. The motion carries. As there will be no further business, the Board is adjourned un-- until --"

Clerk: "Sign."

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President: "Okay, sign. Yeah, I'm so sorry. Alright, now we're good. As there will be no further business, the Board is adjourned until its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday June 12, 2019. Thank you."



JOAN M. PRATT
Secretary