
PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President          Councilmember Tom Hucker, Vice President
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz                   Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Evan Glass                      Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Nancy Navarro                   Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Hans Riemer

The Vice President in the Chair.

Meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin

Senator Cardin said he is working closely with the State’s representatives - “Team Maryland” - to address the impacts of the pandemic. He stated that testing capacity must increase and is the top priority as the State starts to reopen and for schools to reopen in the fall. He expressed the view that the federal supply chain is lacking and inconsistent messaging is hindering efforts to contain the virus.

Regarding economic issues, Senator Cardin said the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has been successful in assisting businesses and individuals, but is running out of funding. There is a need for the federal government to have a continuing role to provide resources as the pandemic continues. He noted that the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act is pending but bipartisan agreement has not yet been reached. Senator Cardin expressed the view that there would be a second round of federal assistance to state and local governments and school systems.

Regarding immigration issues, he noted that the Delegation took steps to address public health issues at detention centers, but that it is too close to the election to be able to change the President’s current agenda.
Senator Cardin responded to questions from Councilmembers on how the medical system would move forward, restrictions on home evictions, additional unemployment relief, funding for additional COVID-19 testing and tracing, the PPP program, post-COVID infrastructure investments and implications for telemedicine, voter and election protection, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for the food insecure, and efforts to keep Purple Line construction on schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council