

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Letter of Information
Senate Bill 276 –
Baltimore City Public School Buildings –
Notice of Demolition – Repeal**

February 3, 2022

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners would like inform the committee that the current law which does not require any notice to the City Council or the Council President for demolition or partial demolition of school buildings under the 10-year plan does not mean that the school system does not notify any city agencies. In fact, the school system and the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) work collaborative with the City of Baltimore's Department of Planning and the City of Baltimore's Urban Design and Architecture Advisory Panel on all school construction decisions that will or will not result in demolition under the 10- year plan. Additionally, City schools works with several other state and local agencies in the list below to ensure all appropriate pre-demolition matters are addressed.

However, the current law has allowed the Maryland Stadium Authority and the Baltimore City Public School System to move more swiftly in constructing and renovating buildings under the 21st Century program. An example of the increased time frame for buildings that do not follow the current law can be found in two of our most recent school building projects. Holabird and Graceland/O'Donnel Heights were constructed under the capital improvement plan (CIP) and not the 10 - year plan. While the buildings were being constructed students resided in the old buildings. Once construction was completed, students moved to the new building, but 9 months later, City Schools is still waiting to get the sign offs from the various agencies to allow the demolition of the two old buildings.

With the repeal, City Schools would now be required to pursue additional steps, per the City's Construction and Demolition Permits Office, which would take an additional, on average, 3 to 8 months; much longer than the current process. Several additional notices must be provided several more agencies would need to be notified and agree to the demolition or partial demolition, prior to the start of the process.

The agencies that will need to be notified and agree to the demolition are:
MDE – Maryland Department of the Environment with an intent to demo
Bureau of Liens – need lien certificate

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DOT – Department of Transportation

Division of Utility Billing – confirm all outstanding utility bills are paid

DPW – Department of Public Works – electronic approval. Soil erosion and sediment control plans

Division of Utility Engineering

Department of Planning – Electronic approval

CHAP- Commission of Historical and Architectural Preservation

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