Baltimore City CoC General Body Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2026

I. Opening

- Agenda: Welcome, Board Election Kickoff, MIMA presentation, PIT Count, MOHS Updates, Member Announcements, Closing.

II. Board Election Kickoff (Slides 3–12)

- **Purpose:** Elections refresh Board leadership. The goal is a Board that represents the community and includes people with lived experience.
- **Eligibility:**
    - A nominee must be affiliated with a CoC member agency or have lived experience of homelessness.
    - They must be willing to attend meetings, serve on committees and vote.
    - They must comply with the Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct policies.
- **Open seats (members can nominate for all of them):**
    - At-Large Representative: 1 open seat, 1 re-election (voting).
    - Homeless Service Provider: 0 open seats, 3 re-elections (voting).
    - Homeless or Formerly Homeless Individual: 5 open seats (voting).
    - System Leaders: 1 open seat, selected by the Board (voting).
    - City Agency Representatives: 5 open seats, selected by the Board (non-voting).
- **Nomination process:**
    - Any CoC member can nominate themselves or someone else.
    - Nominations go in through an emailed survey link.
    - The form is open Sept 11 – Oct 15, 2026, with weekly reminders.
    - MOHS confirms nominees on a rolling basis.
    - The Governance Committee reviews nominations, builds a recommended slate and sends it to the Board for approval.
- **Voting key dates:**

    - **Oct 23:** Deadline for new individuals and agency reps to register in the CoC member database.
    - **Oct 30:** MOHS sends the election notice with nominee bios.
    - **Nov 2–9:** The ballot is open in the member database, including at the next General Body Meeting
- **Voting timeline:**
    - Week of Nov 9: Results go to the Governance Committee.
    - Mid-Dec: The Board votes on the results, and MOHS notifies the people elected.
    - Week of Dec 15: Board orientation begins.
- **Executive election preview (Chair and Vice Chair):**
    - Mid-Dec: Call for nominations and the nomination form opens.
    - Early Jan: Nominee bios go to the Board.
    - Mid-Jan: Q&A with nominees, Board vote and announcement of results.
- **Member 365 registration:**
    - Register as soon as possible.
    - An agency registers through one designated lead. Agency registration is preferred for anyone affiliated with an organization.
    - Individual membership is only for people with no member-agency affiliation.
    - QR code handouts were provided.

III. Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) (Slides 13–47)

- **Mission:** Promote the well-being and inclusion of immigrants in Baltimore City.
- **MIMA roles:** Advising the Mayor, technical assistance, community building, policy advocacy, language access and compliance, and communications.
- **BNAAC program:**
    - Reduces disparities for immigrant and refugee families and improves access to benefits.
    - The ARPA-funded phase served 800+ families through April 2025.

    - The second phase launched in October 2025 and is fully City-funded.
    - Eligibility:
        - Lives in the City.
        - Is part of an immigrant or refugee family with a child who has legal status.
        - Has limited English.
        - Agrees to meet with a case manager over 3 months.
    - Structure: A 90-day case management path from intake to closure. Steps include a service plan, referrals, a Know Your Rights (KYR) workshop, monthly check-ins and financial assistance.
    - Referrals:
        - Anyone can refer through the online form, including self-referrals.
        - Referrers should add their name and organization.
        - Clients should expect calls from an unfamiliar number.
- **Safe City Baltimore:**
    - Started in 2017 and reactivated by MIMA.
    - Three tiers: community education, legal screening and representation, and detained defense.
    - Why this model:
        - Everyone has a right to due process and representation.
        - Immigrants with lawyers have significantly better outcomes.
        - Better coordination means less duplication, with services covering every stage of contact with immigration enforcement.
- **Tier 1, Community Education:**
    - Partners: the ABA, private attorneys and community partners.
    - KYR and Family Preparedness workshops cover:
        - Rights at home, at work, at school and in public.

        - Preparing documents such as standby guardianship and financial power of attorney.
    - Open to all, but non-immigrants are asked to attend the provider and ally sessions instead.
- **Tier 2, Legal Screening Hotline (202-662-8635):**
    - Not an emergency line.
    - Live answer Mon and Wed, 5–7 PM. Voicemail at all other times.
    - Steps: intake, attorney screening, then assignment to a legal service provider or referral to a workshop.
    - Maximum estimated time to legal representation is about 44 days.
    - Eligibility:
        - City resident.
        - Household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line (FPL).
        - For representation: a viable claim and no current attorney.
    - How providers can help:
        - Share hotline cards.
        - Offer office space for calls.
        - Follow up with clients.
        - Providers cannot call on a client's behalf.
- **Tier 3, Rapid Response and Detained Defense:**
    - CASA runs the rapid response hotline. It contacts families within 48 business hours and offers financial and case support.
    - Amica Center (formerly CAIR Coalition) represents detained residents for the life of their case.
    - Eligibility:
        - The person is detained by ICE, or a loved one is.
        - The detainee has no attorney.

        - The person has lived in the City 6+ months before detention.
        - Household income at or below 200% FPL.
        - Priority goes to parents of minors and older adults.
    - How providers can help:
        - Make sure the person closest to the detainee calls CASA.
        - Give emotional support during the wait.
        - Do **not** contact Amica directly.
- **Other ways to help:**
    - Volunteer with the ABA hotline. Multilingual paralegals and attorneys are especially needed.
    - Follow partner organizations.
    - Donate. $1,000 supports one family after a detention.
    - Become a Safe City ambassador.
- **Contacts:** Staff list on Slide 46. General inbox: mima@baltimorecity.gov

IV. 2027 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Preview

- **What it is:**
    - A federally required one-night snapshot taken in the last 10 days of January.
    - Covers sheltered people (shelters, transitional housing, safe havens) and unsheltered people (streets, cars, abandoned buildings).
- **Why January:** It tends to capture the highest count, and it keeps data consistent across CoCs.
- **2026 results:**
    - 1,783 people counted: 1,595 sheltered and 188 unsheltered (the unsheltered figure is from 2025).
    - 69% were in emergency shelter, 20% in transitional housing, 11% unsheltered.
    - Total homelessness fell 12% from 2025.

    - Veterans made up 9% of the count, down 2%.
    - Households with children made up 12%, down 2.7%.
    - Seniors 65+ made up 11%.
- **2027 dates:** Sun Jan 24 and Mon Jan 25 (evenings) at Our Daily Bread. Backup dates are TBD.

V. MOHS Updates (Slides 54–58)

- Winter shelter planning for 2026–27 is underway.
- Wellness Center soft launch: Sept 21 at the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center.
- The outreach team is collecting warm clothing. Contact HomelessOutreach@baltimorecity.gov to drop items off.
- First HOME-ARP development: 56 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units at Beacon House Square, with Beacon Communities and Project PLASE.
- The CFY26 MOHS Agency Metrics Report has launched.
- HMIS refresher training runs Sept 15–25.
- The federal fiscal year ends Sept 30.
- **FY26 CoC funding:**
    - The NOFO is paused due to a lawsuit against HUD.
    - The funds are in the budget, and HUD must make awards by Dec 1, 2026.
    - It's still unclear how HUD will award funds, how CoCs will apply and which program types will be prioritized.
    - FY26 funds cover programming that ends in 2028
    - FY25 contracts are underway.

VI. Close

- Open floor for member announcements and questions, then thank you.
    - PIT/ MOHS Questions (Answered by Director Simmons)
        - Are numbers of CoC outreach included in the PIT Count report?

        - Street outreach includes both MOHS and CoC street outreach
    - How do you make sure people who are not active in resources get into those resources while conducting the PIT count?
        - Folks experiencing homelessness are physically counted in the streets and are surveyed. Resources are shared during that outreach
        - There has been a change in the inspection requirement. How is MOHS adapting to that?
            - All projects are moving to INSPIRE. You don't need to do anything differently, but providers should see what the old checklist looks like compared to the new one.
        - In the past people were counted if they didn't answer questions on the PIT count survey, how do you make sure that they are still counted?
            - We have seen surveys where they didn't answer all the questions and we usually still count that data. However we do need basic information like last four digits of the SSN to make sure we don't count people multiple times.
        - What is the timing where we think about contingency planning for next year's contracts/ providers?
            - Let's see what this process is like coming from HUD. We will give additional guidance and recommendations. Thank you for your patience!
        - For PIT count, does that data include individuals aging out of foster care?
            - No. PIT count looks at sheltered and unsheltered count. Mental Health institutions and foster care institutions are not considered a sheltered data point.
        - Is participating in the PIT count voluntary?

        - All CoC providers are required to participate but CoC members it is highly recommended. We rely heavily on our volunteers during this process.

- Miscellaneous Questions
    - What are we doing about all of the encampments in the city?
        - We have an encampment protocol. Cities approach is you call 311, you report and encampment, outreach assess the sight. Sat that points it's put on the rubric. Assessments go to a large work group (city agencies) the team is responsible to do the engagement and encourages the clients to find a place for them. They do not take down encampments. We put 30-day notices and give them resources (help them understand what services are available).
    - Problem finding resources throughout Baltimore?
        - There is a document on the website were folks can fill out the form in order for MoHS to share those resources.
    - Comment: Urging not to pass the time limit proposal on temporary housing. Urging CoC to expand permanent housing.
        - Director Simmons: Important to note, this month we had thousands of folks calling for shelter and there was no availability for them. We are trying to improve the services in the emergency shelters. Shelter space is limited.
    - Category 4 service provider: Challenge: some people searching for housing, are more suited for transition housing and not rapid response? How do I get them into that?
        - There is a way to make sure that's possible, we will follow up.