
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

May 31, 2022

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 22-0216 – City Property – Grant of Easement

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0216 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would grant a perpetual easement to the Maryland State Highway Administration for the installation and maintenance of traffic apparatus (lights, signs, median, etc.), on Eastern Avenue near Eastpoint Mall, as shown on the accompanying plat.

Section 5(b) of Article V of the City Charter provides that the disposition of any interest in real property “shall be authorized by ordinance, shall be approved by the Board of Estimates with the approval entered in its minutes, and shall be made at public sale unless a private sale or other manner of disposition shall be expressly authorized by the Board of Estimates and entered in its minutes.” City Charter, Art. V, §5(b). The granting of an easement diminishes or disposes of some property rights. *See e.g. Magraw v. Dillow*, 341 Md. 492, 502-03, n.12 (1996); *accord Lindsay v. Annapolis Roads Property Owners Ass’n*, 431 Md. 274, 290 (2013). Therefore, this bill is the appropriate method to approve the easements.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Jeff Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor