
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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July 27, 2023

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

Re: City Council Bill 23-0386 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors — Home of the Friendless

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0386 for form and legal sufficiency. It would designate the Home of the Friendless at 1313 Druid Hill Avenue, as an “historical landmark: exterior” by adding a section to Subtitle 18A of Article 6 of the Baltimore City Code. The Ordinance would take effect on the date of enactment.

Specifically, Council Bill 23-0386 proposes to add § 18A-3 to Article 6 of the Code. Section 18A-3 has already been added to the Code by Ordinance 23-222 which designates the Baltimore City Engine Company 14 Firehouse exterior as an historical landmark. Accordingly, Council Bill 23-0386 must be amended to reflect a section of Subtitle 18A that has not been previously designated.

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council is required to add a structure to the “Landmark List: Exteriors.” City Code, Art. 6, §4-2(1). The City Council must refer the bill for written reports and recommendations to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), and the Planning Commission. The Council President can also designate other agencies to review and make recommendations. See City Code, Art. 6, §4-5(a). The bill to designate an exterior or interior structure as a landmark may not be placed on the second reading calendar until CHAP and the Planning Commission submit their reports to the Council or fail to do so within 100 days of referral of the bill to the agencies. See City Code, Art. 6, §4-5(b).

Additionally, there must be a hearing on the bill before placing it on the second reading calendar. City Code, Art. 6, §4-6(a). Notice of that hearing, including bill number, name and address of requestor, date, time, place and purpose of the hearing, and address of the property, must be posted in a conspicuous place on the subject property and sent by first-class mail to the owners of record of the property. See Art. 6, §4-6(b). The notice must be mailed and posted at least 15 days before the public hearing, and the posted notice must meet the requirements set forth in Art. 6. See Art. 6, §4-6(d) & (e). If the ordinance to add a structure to the “Landmark List-

Exteriors” was not initiated at the request of CHAP, the Council cannot hold a hearing on the ordinance until it receives CHAP’s written report and recommendations, or CHAP fails to file a report and recommendations within 100 days of referral. See Art. 6, §4-8.

Assuming CHAP and the Planning Commission file reports, and the notice and hearing requirements are satisfied, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency with the amendment noted above for the section number in Subtitle 18A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Nina Themelis
Sophia Gebrehiwot
Tiffany Maclin
Elena DiPietro
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Jeff Hochstetler
Teresa Cummings