

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

June 15, 2017

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 17-0078 – Private Streets – Naming an Unnamed 190-Foot Street, Located in the Vicinity of 301 East Cromwell Street, Rye Street

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0078 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill seeks to name as “Rye Street” an unnamed 190-foot street near 301 East Cromwell Street as described in the bill.

The City has the power to name this street under Sections 7-2 and 7-3 of Article 26 of the Baltimore City Code. These sections require a bill proposing a new name for any thoroughfare in the City be referred to, and reports written by, the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation (“CHAP”). The City Code provides that “no further action shall be taken by the City Council” on the bill “pending the receipt” of the reports from DPW and CHAP. City Code, Art. 26, §7-3(b).

There are four guidelines that shall be observed when naming or renaming a street:

- (1) the name may not be the same as the name of an existing street, avenue, or thoroughfare;
- (2) the name may not be the name of a living person or persons;
- (3) the name may not be the name of an existing or proposed business or of an existing or proposed product of a business; and
- (4) the name shall be given to the entire length of the street, avenue, or thoroughfare.

City Code, Art. 26, §7-3(c).

The proposed name meets the second and third criteria. The Law Department defers to other agencies’ review of the first and last criteria. If the proposed name is duplicative of an existing street name, DOT is to suggest an alternative name in its report to the City Council. City Code, Art. 26, §7-2(b).



Assuming all the criteria are met, and reports by CHAP and DOT are received, the Law Department can approve this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: David E. Ralph, Acting City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor