

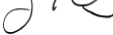
Joseph L. Smith
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Janet Abrahams
President / Chief Executive Officer



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Janet Abrahams, President and Chief Executive Officer 

Date: October 13, 2020

Re: City Council Bill 19-0439 Franchise – Installation of 3 Private Water Pipes in the Bed of the 1000 Block of McCulloh Street

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) was referred City Council Bill 19-0439 Franchise – Installation of 3 Private Water Pipes in the Bed of the 1000 Block of McCulloh Street, which would grant a franchise agreement to HABC to construct, use, and maintain three private underground pipelines in the bed of the 1000 block of McCulloh Street, between West Hoffman Street and West Preston Street, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

On June 3, 2019 the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) was granted a Right-of-Entry Agreement to install three (3) private water pipes; 4" hot water, 4" cold water, and 3" hot water return in the vicinity of the 1000 Block of McCulloh Street. As part of that Agreement HABC agreed to pursue an Ordinance to grant a Franchise over the area of McCulloh Street Owned by The City of Baltimore for the installation of the private water lines.

The HABC is Baltimore's public housing agency supplying low income housing throughout the City of Baltimore. HABC owns, manages, and operates the McCulloh Homes Development consisting of 465 low income public housing apartments on a campus which is situated between Druid Hill Avenue and Madison Avenue and Dolphin Street and Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and encompasses both sides of the 1000 Block of McCulloh Street.

McCulloh Homes was built in the early 1940's and has been renovated over the years, but the domestic hot water generating equipment and distribution have not been addressed. Heat and hot water are centrally generated and distributed throughout the development via underground piping. The original domestic hot water generators were failing and beyond repair. It was necessary to install new hot water generators while continuing to operate the failing equipment. Space was not available to install the new hot water heating equipment in the same area of the old and connect to the existing distribution piping. The new equipment location required the private water piping to be installed across McCulloh Street in the City's right-of way in order to maintain hot water to the residents during construction and to allow connection to the existing distribution system.






Housing Authority of Baltimore City | 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

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The installation of these private water pipes does not adversely affect any of the City infrastructure in the area and was critical to maintaining the vital service of domestic hot water to the residents of McCulloh Homes.

For these reasons, HABC recommends approval of the franchise agreement as introduced.

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