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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. “JACK” YOUNG  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
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October 13, 2020

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 19-0447 – REVISED REPORT – Urban Renewal –  
Hampden Business Area – Amendment

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0447 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill revises the Hampden Business Area Urban Renewal Plan (the “Plan”) to conform it to the current zoning code, to set a date for the expiration of the plan and notice procedures in advance of the expiration.

**The Law Department is submitting a revised report because there was a typo in the prior report that referenced Hamilton instead of Hampden. However, the substance is the same.**

Any changes in an Urban Renewal plan, such as these changes, must be made by ordinance. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g)(1). Since this is not a technical amendment but is instead one that affects the duration of the Plan, it requires the same notice as that required to adopt the original ordinance that created the Plan. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g) (2), (3). Thus, notice of the City Council hearing must be posted in the neighborhood of the area involved at least ten days prior to the hearing. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(i). Additionally, notice of the City Council hearing must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore City. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(ii).

Additionally, any notice and hearing requirements in the Plan itself must be followed. Paragraph G of the Plan requires that the City Department of Housing and Community Development give any proposed amendment to the “Hampden Merchants’ Association and local improvement associations or their successors, for their review and comments” at or before the time the City Planning Commission receives the proposed amendment. Plan, ¶ G. The Hampden Merchants’ Association and local improvement associations or their successors have three weeks to respond to any proposed change and if they fail to do so, the change is deemed satisfactory. Plan, ¶ G. There must be a public hearing on the change. Plan, ¶ G. At least ten days before that hearing, the Hampden Merchants’ Association or its successor must be given written notice of the date and time of that hearing. Plan, ¶ G.

Assuming these notice requirements are met, the Law Department can approve City Council Bill 19-0447 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

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

Hilary Ruley  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor  
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor