

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor
101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 8, 2009

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

Re: City Council Bill 09-0292 – City Streets – Renaming South Hilton Street
to Unseld's Way

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

You have asked the Law Department to review City Council Bill 09-0292. The bill would change the name of South Hilton Street, between West Caton Avenue and Frederick Road, to Unseld's Way.

Section 7-3(c) of Article 26 of the Baltimore City Code sets forth guidelines that "shall be observed" when a street is named or its name is changed. Section 7-3(c)(4) requires that when a street name is changed, "the proposed name shall be given to the **entire length** of the street, avenue or thoroughfare." This ordinance seeks to rename only the part of Hilton Street between West Caton Avenue and Frederick Road. The plain meaning of these guidelines prohibit this renaming because it only applies to part of the street and not "the entire length of the street" as required by law.

Therefore, the Law Department cannot approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Ashlea H. Brown
Special Assistant Solicitor

cc: George A. Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena R. DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Deepa Bhattacharyya, Assistant Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor
Avery Aisenstark, Legislative Reference



Unfav.