


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 11-0792		

TO

DATE: November 9, 2011

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall


I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 11-0792 introduced by Council Members Kraft, Clarke, Henry, D'Adamo, Middleton, Curran, Conaway, Welch and Spector.

The purpose of the Bill is to extend the alley gating and greening program to include alleys that are abutted primarily by either or both residential and commercial structures; correct certain administrative references to reflect the assumption of jurisdiction over the program by the Department of General Services; and correct clarify, and conform related provisions.

Article II of the Baltimore City Charter was amended after Maryland General Assembly action, to authorize the gating and leasing of an alley to property owners whose lots abut the alley [§ 35(e) and (f)]. Prior to these amendments, the only option was to legally close an alley to public use, a process that requires administrative costs, legal procedures, title searches, and consents from the affected property owners. Article 26 Subtitle 8A of the Baltimore City Code codified the process to be followed to gain authorization for gating and greening an alley.

City Council Bill 11-0792, if approved, would make changes to Subtitle 8A in recognition of the transfer of General Services functions, formerly part of the Department of Public Works, to the Department of General Services. The legislation would also expand the standard for applying for alley gating to specifically include commercial structures as qualifying abutting structures.

The Department of General Services is recommending a series of amendments to the Bill that would clarify the sections of the law which still pertain to the Department of Public Works and its need to access and maintain utilities existing in alleyways. The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 11-0792 as proposed to be amended by the Department of General Services.


Alfred H. Foxx
Director

AHF/MMC:pat

F/A

