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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
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November 14, 2023

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Council Bill 23-0186R – Informational Hearing – Examining the State of  
Baltimore’s Middle Neighborhoods

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0186R. The bill invites the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of public Works, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the City Administrator and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss the state of Baltimore’s Middle Neighborhoods to include a discussion regarding the systemic disinvestment of Baltimore’s middle neighborhoods, ongoing efforts to revitalize these neighborhoods, future strategies to invest in their neighborhoods and present challenges.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards.

A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to express its views on a particular matter. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988). Therefore, the Law Department approves Council Bill 23-0186R for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Cummings".

Teresa Epps Cummings  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, Acting City Solicitor  
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor  
Jeffery Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor  
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor  
Teresa Cummings, Assistant Solicitor