

MEMORANDUM

To:

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council

c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: August 18, 2009

Re:

City Council Bill 09-0360 City Streets - Closing - Two Portions of

Penn Street

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 09-0360, which was introduced for the purpose of condemning and closing (1) a portion of Penn Street, extending from Lombard Street, North 02° 49' 40" West 346.42 feet to Redwood Street and (2) a portion of Penn Street at a point on the east side thereof, distant North 02° 49' 40" West 107.33 feet from the north side of Lombard Street and extending North 02° 49' 40" West 239.09 feet, as shown on Plat 184-A-23A in the Office of the Department of Public Works.

The closing of portions of this street would facilitate the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma and Medical Center to add 10 new surgical rooms, additional beds and other program space, and increase the size of the rooftop helipad. In order to accommodate these needs, the Medical Center will construct a 7-story expansion on property currently occupied by a one-story brick structure. The design of the facility will also require extending the new structure into the Penn Street right-of-way, beginning at an 18-foot height above grade. Air rights already granted to the Medical Center in 1988 along this block of Penn Street will also need to be extended to accommodate the expanded helipad rooftop site. Both of these needed rights-of-way encroachments require closure of air rights. City Council Bill 09-0360, if approved, would close the following air rights to public use, and companion legislation would authorize their sale (City Council Bill 09-0361).

The Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection to the adoption of City Council Bill 09-0360.

PTG:pmd

cc:

Ms. Angela Gibson Ms. Diane Hutchins

Mr. Andrew Frank





