CITY OF BALTIMORE ORDINANCE 24 - 42 2 Council Bill 24-0507

Introduced by: Councilmember Conway
Introduced and read first time: April 8, 2024

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

Committee Report: Favorable, with Amendments

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: November 4, 2024

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

| 1 2 | Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows <u>Sustainable Vegetation</u> Management |
|----------|---|
| | |
| 3 | FOR the purpose of requiring the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of |
| 4 | Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to submit a report to the |
| 5 | Mayor and City Council assessing the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining up to |
| 6 | 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining ecologically beneficial native plant |
| 7 | communities (otherwise known as "urban meadows") and mapping vacant lots existing areas |
| 8 | maintained by the City with mown grass and existing areas with packed dirt that could be |
| 9 | transformed into urban meadows; selected to be used as sites to pilot low-maintenance and |
| 0 | ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices that are alternatives to |
| 1 | mown grass; and providing for a special effective date. |
| | |
| 2 | SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That: |
| | |
| 3 | (a) For the purposes of this study, the term "urban meadow" is, per the United States |
| 4 | Department of Agriculture, defined as "habitats dominated by grasses and other |
| 5 | herbaceous species that can serve an important ecological role for the City's |
| 6 | wildlife". |
| | |
| 7 | (b) (a) No later than 120 180 days from the enactment of this Ordinance, the Baltimore |
| 8 | City Administrator, in consultation with the Baltimore City Office of |
| 9 | Sustainability and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability, shall submit a |
| 20 | report, as fully described in subsection (b) of this section, to the Mayor and City |
| 21 | Council assessing the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining up to 100 |
| 21 22 | acres of otherwise known as "urban meadows" low-maintenance and ecologically |
| 23 | beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows, |
| 24 | and mapping vacant lots existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass and |
| 25 | existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows. |

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment,

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by

amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

Council Bill 24-0507

| 1 | (c) (b) The report required by this section shall include: |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | (1) a cost and benefit analysis of an initiative to install and maintain up to 100 acres of urban meadows low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows, in the City; City, including evaluating and comparing the following factors for installing and maintaining low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices as alternatives to the current practice of installing and maintaining mown grass: |
| 9 | (i) financial costs and savings; |
| 10 | (ii) community impact and acceptance; |
| 11 12 | (iii) environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emission and carbon sequestration; |
| 13 | (iv) safety; |
| 14 | (v) aesthetics; |
| 15 | (vi) biodiversity; |
| 16 | (vii) urban heat island effects and mitigation; |
| 17 | (viii) opportunities for workforce development; |
| 18 | (ix) legal implications; and |
| 19 | (x) operational impacts on City agencies and partners; and |
| 20 21 22 23 | (2) a map of existing vacant lots existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass and existing areas with packed dirt and minimal vegetation that could be transformed into sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows; and |
| 24 25 26 | (3) a logistical analysis of installing and maintaining up to 100 acres of urban meadows; and low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows. |
| 27 28 | (4) an assessment of the environmental impact of installing and maintaining urban meadows in the City: |

Council Bill 24-0507

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is enacted.

Council Bill 24-0507

| Certified as duly passed this 18 day of November | ser, 20 <u>24</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| | L. |
| 77.7747.00 | President, Baltimore City Council |
| | |
| Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor, | |
| this 18 day of November, 2024 | |
| | Harman Autur |
| | Chief Clerk |
| | |
| Approved this 27th day of November, 2024 | |
| | Brandon M Scott Mayor, Baltimore City |
| | Mayor, Baltimore City |
| | |
| | |
| Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency | |

Chief Solicitor