
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



MINORITY AND WOMEN'S
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
OFFICE
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

September 30, 2021

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

Re: City Council Bill 21-0090 – City Streets – Closing – Etting Street and four 10 Foot
Alleys bounded by Druid Hill Avenue, Gold Street, Division Street and Baker Street

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0090 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill condemning and closing of Etting Street and four ten-foot alleys bounded by Druid Hill Avenue, Gold Street, Division Street and Baker Street as shown on a plat numbered 337-A-28A and filed in the Office of the Department of Transportation; and providing for a special effective date.

Section (34)(a) of Article II of the City Charter grants the Mayor and City Council the power to “construct, open, extend, widen, straighten or close streets, bridges, tunnels or approaches to them and other public ways of every kind within the bounds of the City.” Section 116(b)(2) of Article VII of the City Charter requires the Department of Transportation to prepare all ordinances for the opening and closing of streets.

In reviewing the bill, the Law Department notes that Section 1 on page 1, and Sections 2, 4 and 5 on page 3 refer to the Director of Public Works as having control over street closings. This language is outdated. As noted above, the Director of Transportation oversees street closings. It is the Law Department’s understanding that the Department of Transportation will offer amendments to solve this problem.

If amendments to these sections are made, the Law Department is prepared to approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervala

Victor K. Tervala
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs
Matthew Stegman, Director of Fiscal and Legislative Services
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor