



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner. *AK*

Date: November 5, 2020

Re: City Council Bill 20-0579 Sale of Property - Former Bed of a 10-Foot Alley

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0579 for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in a certain parcel of land known as the former bed of a 10-foot alley bounded by Etting Street, a variable width alley, West Lafayette Avenue, and West Lanvale Street and no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 20-0579 would allow for the public or private sale of the former Bed of a 10-foot alley and allow for the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 1300 Druid Hill Drive, to develop a surface parking lot to provide off-street parking for its members and visitors.

This Bill is a companion piece to City Council Bills 20-0577 for the purpose of opening a 10-Foot Alley & 20-0578 which would condemn and close a 10-Foot Alley. Collectively, the opening, closing and sale of the alley will allow the church to proceed with the development of a parking lot.

The City Council recently approved Council Bill 20-0590 for the purpose of permitting the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a parking lot on the properties located at 1301 thru 1325 Etting Street and 505 thru 509 West Lafayette Avenue. The Upton Planning Committee and the Historic Marble Hill Community Association submitted letters in support of Bethel AME Church's acquisition and use of the vacant lots to construct a parking lot adjacent to their building to support the needs of their congregation.

DHCD has previously shown support for the development of this parking lot by assisting in the property disposition of the previously City owned properties. Per §14-331 of the Baltimore City Zoning Ordinance, the development of a parking lot includes requirements for screening and landscaping. At its meeting of September 10, 2020, the Planning Commission recommended amendment and approval.

DHCD **supports** the passage of Council Bill 20-0579.

MB:sm

cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*