


Robert Cennamo

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennamo, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0042 – Real Estate Records - Modernization.		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

April 22, 2021

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0042, Real Estate Records-Modernization for the purpose of modernizing the method by which the Comptroller shall make certain information regarding the City's real estate records available to the public; making certain stylistic changes; and conforming and correcting related provisions.

Background

The City currently requires the Comptroller to keep a well-bound record book recording all deeds and leases made to the City, as well as contracts and agreements made in relation to City property. In addition, the Comptroller and Director of Finance are tasked with jointly maintaining an inventory of City-owned real property that is updated quarterly. This legislation will require the Comptroller to maintain an online database of City property, which is publicly accessible and searchable, instead of the current record book.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance anticipates this legislation will cost approximately \$25,000 annually, which can be absorbed in the agency's current budget. This estimate is based on conversations with the Comptroller's Office about the plan to utilize specific database software. The Office plans to establish two workflows, which will cost approximately \$12,500 annually each and there are no additional start-up costs.

Expense	Cost	Total Cost
Software Workflow	\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000

Conclusion

The goal of this legislation to modernize the real estate records through an online database can increase efficiency, accountability, and transparency. The Department of Finance supports these efforts and anticipates that additional costs to implement this legislation will be absorbed by the agency's budget.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 21-0041.

cc: Henry Raymond
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