
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 5, 2022

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

Re: City Council Bill 22-0125R – Informational Hearing – Occupancy Permits
– Inspections and Code Enforcement

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0125R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and other interested parties to appear before the Council to discuss the process of conducting building and code enforcement inspections prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit, problems that may occur during the process in connection with an unabated vacant building notice, and ways the process can be improved.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an informational hearing. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988).

Therefore, the Law Department approves this resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochstetler
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
D’Ereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Special Solicitor