
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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March 8, 2024

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 24-0500 – Zoning – Area of Special Signage Control –
Amendment

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0500 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would change the text of the Zoning Code to make clear that the Port Covington Area of Special Signage Control is the entirety of the area zoned PC and not limited to the area mapped as PC in the first iteration of the Zoning Map adopted in 2017. It is arguable that the language currently provides for the entirety of the PC zoned areas to be in the Area of Special Signage Control, but this clarifies the intent.

Some procedural requirements apply to this bill because a change in the zoning code text is deemed a “legislative authorization.” Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, § 5-501(1). Specifically, notice of the City Council hearing must be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, at least 15 days before the hearing. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, § 5-601(b); 5-601(e). The notice of the City Council hearing must include the date, time, place and purpose of the hearing, as well as the address or description of the property and the name of the applicant. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, § 5-601(c).

The bill is the appropriate method for the City Council to change the text of the Zoning Code. Assuming the procedural requirements are satisfied, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor

Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Jeff Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor