
CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 20, 2017

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 17-0123 – Franchise – Bridgeway over Linden Avenue

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0054 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would grant a franchise to Maryland General Hospital, Inc., to construct, use, and maintain an elevated bridgeway that is to be located above and across Linden Avenue, to connect a proposed new hospital building on the west side of Linden Avenue with the existing main hospital building on the east side of Linden Avenue. The bill is subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

The Baltimore City Charter requires that any given franchise be granted by ordinance containing the terms and conditions of the grant. City Charter, Art. VIII, § 1. A bill granting a franchise must be referred to the Board of Estimates (“BOE”) after first reading. City Charter, Art. VIII, § 2. Thereafter, the BOE is empowered to establish by vote or resolution the compensation paid to the City and may alter the terms and conditions under which a franchise is granted. *Id.* The compensation and the terms and conditions approved by the BOE must be attached to the bill before the bill can be enacted. *Id.*

Assuming the above procedural requirements are met, the Law Department will approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor