

---

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

---

October 24, 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 22-0284 – Sarah Ann Street Historic District

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0284 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill designates the area located within certain boundaries as the Sarah Ann Street Historic District.

Subtitle 3 of Article 6 of the City Code governs the designation of Historic and Architectural Preservation Districts. An ordinance is required to designate any area as an Historic and Architectural Preservation District, and the ordinance must be supported by certain findings of fact. City Code, Art. 6, § 3-1. On introduction, the Council must refer the ordinance to the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation (“CHAP”) and the Planning Commission, as well as any other agencies designated by the Council President. The First Reader version of the bill indicates it was referred to CHAP and the Planning Commission, among other agencies.

If the ordinance is proposed by CHAP, as this bill appears to be, then CHAP is required to prepare and adopt the written findings required by Section 3-1(b) of Article 6. Although the Planning Commission’s online bill report indicates that CHAP has made the relevant findings, CHAP’s report does not yet appear in the online bill file.

Assuming CHAP’s report contains the required findings and is received before the Council acts, or 100 days have elapsed since referral to CHAP, and assuming the Council adheres to the public notice and hearing requirements in Section 3-6 of Article 6, the Law Department can approve the bill 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