
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT

Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

EBONY M. THOMPSON, CITY SOLICITOR

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SUITE 101, CITY HALL

BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 25, 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 24-0586 – Urban Renewal Oldtown Mall – Amendment 11

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0586 which is for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Oldtown Mall to strike all provisions of the Plan other than those pertaining to authority over disposition; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

Any changes in an Urban Renewal plan, such as these changes, must be made by ordinance. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g)(1). Since this is not a technical amendment, it requires the same notice as that required to adopt the original ordinance that created the Plan. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g)(2), (3). Thus, notice of the City Council hearing must be posted in the neighborhood of the area involved at least ten days prior to the hearing. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(i). Additionally, notice of the City Council hearing must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore City. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(ii).

Additionally, any notice and hearing requirements in the current Plan itself must be followed. Paragraph F of the Plan requires that “The Department must submit to the Oldtown Council “A” PAC and the Oldtown Merchants’ Association, or their successors, for their review and comments all proposed amendments to the Renewal Plan no later than the time the proposed amendments are submitted to the City Planning Commission by the Department. The written comments and recommendations from this review must be transmitted to the Department no later than 3 weeks after they have been submitted to the Oldtown Council “A” PAC and the Oldtown Merchants’ Association, or their successors; otherwise, it is presumed the proposed changes are satisfactory. Prior to passage of any ordinance amending the Renewal Plan, a public hearing must be held, and the Oldtown Council “A” PAC and the Oldtown Merchants’ Association, or their successors, must receive at least 10 days prior to the hearing, written notice of the time and place of such hearing. The Renewal Plan may be amended from time to time upon compliance with the requirements of law, provided that, prior to passage of any ordinance amending the Renewal Plan,

a public hearing must be held, and providing further, that with respect to any land in the Project Area previously disposed of by the Department for use in accordance with the Renewal Plan, the then owner of the land must receive, at least 10 days prior to the hearing, written notice of the time and place of the hearing and information as to where a copy of the proposed amendments may be inspected and providing further, that the Department must receive the written consent of the then owner of the land whose interests therein are materially affected by the amendment.”

Assuming these requirements have been met, the Law Department could approve City Council Bill 24-0586.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashlea Brown', is written over a horizontal line.

Ashlea Brown
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Luckey, Assistant Solicitor