
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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February 12, 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 24-0474 – Acquisition of Property-Block 6990, Lots 1-7,
and Block 6991, Lots 1-26, and the bed of Woodhouse Avenue

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0474 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the fee simple or other interests in certain property known as Block 6990, Lots 1-7, and Block 6991, Lots 1-26, and the bed of Woodhouse Avenue, which is needed for the purpose of laying out or extending a public road and for the widening of Ralls Avenue. The bill provides for a special effective date.

Whenever the City shall condemn any land for public or municipal purpose, the City is empowered to authorize by ordinance the acquisition of said property, by condemnation or otherwise, pursuant to the City Charter. *See*, Baltimore City Charter, Art. I, §4, Art. II, §2. In addition, Article I, §4 and Article II, §2, §34(a) and §35 of the City Charter grants the Mayor and City Council the power to acquire by purchase or condemnation any property, or interest therein, in order to “construct, open, extend, widen, straighten or close streets, bridges, tunnels or approaches to them and other public ways of every kind within the bounds of the City.” *See*, Baltimore City Charter, Art. I, §4, Art. II, §2, §34(a), §35. Therefore, City Council Bill 24-0474 is the requisite acquisition of property ordinance.

Assuming the procedural requirements are met, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Very truly yours,

Teresa Epps Cummings

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
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