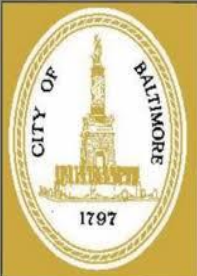


<b>FROM</b>	<b>NAME &amp; TITLE</b>	Dr. Jason W. Mitchell, Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b>  <i>MEMO</i>	
	<b>AGENCY NAME &amp; ADDRESS</b>	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>City Council Bill 22-0293</b>		

November 15, 2022

**TO:**

Ways and Means Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 22-0293 introduced by Council President Mosby on behalf of the Comptroller (Department of Real Estate).

The purpose of the Bill is to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property that is located at 1321 Filbert Street (Block 7200 Lot 060A) and is no longer needed for public use, and to provide for a special effective date.

The Department of Public Works owns and operates the Curtis Bay Water Tank located at 1317 Filbert Street in south Baltimore, a 1.969 parcel under the purview of the Water Utility (including Lot 060A). Records show that the Curtis Bay Water Tank and land was purchased by the City from a private water company in 1934. The purchased land area was larger than the current lots and it is presumed the City sold off portions that were not needed for water supply purposes.

Over a decade ago, the City granted temporary access to a community entity (through the Adopt-A-Lot process) to a portion of the Curtis Bay Water Tank property located along the easterly side of the parcel, from Elmtree Street to Filbert Street. Now known as the Filbert Street Garden, this nonprofit cleaned and fenced in the area, developed vegetable and other gardens, planted trees, maintained bee hives and a composting operation, and provided space for chickens, ducks, and goats. The Garden has become an important part of the surrounding community, educating children and adults about how to grow fresh food and how to compost, and is a popular place for gathering for special events or just relaxing.

Representatives of the Filbert Street Garden approached the Department of Public Works to gain permanent control over the portion of the Water Tank property they currently occupy, just as the Department was looking at options for the siting of a water pumping station at the Filbert Street property. After discussions, then Director Chow agreed to sell the portion of the Curtis Bay Water Tank property occupied by the Filbert Street Garden as a means to protect the entity and

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
November 15, 2022  
Page 2

its investments. It meant creating a new lot for the portion of land that the Filbert Street Garden occupies, declaring it surplus, and being granted authority to sell the lot through the introduction and passage of a sales ordinance. Acting Director Garbark and current Director Mitchell have both honored that commitment.

Public Works worked closely with the Department of Planning and the Department of Transportation to subdivide and create Lot 060A, now recorded on plats with the street address of 1321 Filbert Street, the subject of this sales ordinance. The Department coordinated with the Comptroller's office (Department of Real Estate) to surplus this newly created lot, and is currently assisting with the remaining stages of property appraisal, sales ordinance approval, deed creation, and settlement.

It is for these reasons that the Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 22-0293.

 for

Dr. Jason W. Mitchell  
Director

JWM/MMC