


FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 09-0300		

DATE: April 30, 2009

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 09-0300 introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake on behalf of the Administration (Department of Public Works).

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 a certain parcel of land known as the former bed of Hunter Street, extending from the north side of a 10-foot alley, laid out in the rear of the properties known as 210 through 218/220-222 East Preston Street, northerly 94.1 feet, more or less, to the south side of a 7-foot alley, laid out in the rear of the properties known as 209 through 217 East Mount Royal Avenue and no longer needed for public use.

Printer's Square Apartments, LLC owns the buildings known as 1310 Guilford Avenue and 1300/1314 Hunter Street. These buildings have been renovated as rental apartment buildings. Two elevated and enclosed multi-story bridgeways, built over Hunter Street, connect these two buildings and are authorized to be used and maintained by Printer's Square Apartments, LLC (Ordinances 05-31 and 05-32). Printer's Square Apartments, LLC is requesting to open and close a portion of the 1300 block of Hunter Street, located perpendicular to and between a 10-foot alley and a 7-foot alley. If approved for closure, Printer's Square would like to purchase the former street bed to create a secure, private courtyard between the two apartment buildings. This portion of right-of-way primarily provides access to the apartment buildings' residents and to the buildings' dumpsters. Purchase of the street bed would also allow Printer's Square to consolidate their lots bordering this portion of Hunter Street.

City Council Bill 09-0300, if approved, would authorize the sale of an approximately 20 foot wide by 94.1 foot long portion of the former bed of Hunter Street. Companion legislation would condemn and open and condemn and close Hunter Street to public use (City Council Bills 09-0298 and 09-0299, respectively). Any City-owned utilities not to be abandoned or relocated would be subject to a full width easement (page 2, lines 9 and 10 of the legislation).

Should this ordinance and companion ordinances be approved, the franchise ordinances which grant authority to Printer's Square to maintain and use the connecting elevated bridgeways would no longer be required. City Council Bills will be introduced to extinguish these franchise ordinances, contingent upon approval of the Hunter Street opening, closing, and sales ordinances.

