



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

Date: November 9, 2021

Re: City Council Bill 21-0123 Franchise – Underground Conduit and Fiber Optic Cable

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0123 for the purpose of granting a franchise to the State of Maryland (Maryland Transit Administration) to construct, use, and maintain an underground conduit and fiber optic cable, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 21-0123 would grant a franchise to the State of Maryland – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to construct, use and maintain a new conduit path fiber & optic line on a portion of 6000 Metro Drive to serve current and future MTA infrastructure.

If approved, the legislation would become effective upon enactment and contains a franchise fee for compensation to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, which is required to be set by the Board of Estimates (BOE). The initial term of the Franchise is 1 year and will automatically renew, without any action by either the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore or the Grantee, for 24 consecutive 1-year renewal terms.

DHCD has no objection to City Council Bill 21-0123, and defers to the Department of Transportation as the more directly impacted agency. The Grantee must comply with the requirements of the Baltimore City Building Code and obtain all permits, authorizations and approvals necessary to install the private utilities.

DHCD **does not object** to the passage of City Council Bill 21-0123.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor • **Alice Kennedy**, Acting Housing Commissioner

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