

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. Holliday Street
Suite 101, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 12, 2018

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 17-0172 – Howard Street Commercial Historic District

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0172 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill designates the area located within certain boundaries as the Howard Street Commercial Historic District.

City Code, Article 6, Subtitle 3 establishes the procedures for designating an historic district. Sections 3-1 thru 3-3 require the ordinance designating an historic district to be supported by certain findings of facts and the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation (“CHAP”) is directed to engage in certain studies supportive of the designation. Section 3-5 requires CHAP, the Planning Commission and other agencies designated by the City Council President to report on the proposed legislation within 100 days of referral. Section 3-6 requires the City Council to provide a public hearing on the bill and directs the manner in which notice of the hearing is to be provided. Section 3-7 allows the City Council to adopt, reject or modify the ordinance, but Section 3-9 directs the City Council to obtain the approval of CHAP if the City Council proposes to amend the district boundary lines. Assuming the above procedural requirements are met, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor