
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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April 20, 2021

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 21-0056 – Urban Renewal – Canton Industrial Area –
Amendment

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0056 for form and legal sufficiency. It would amend the existing Urban Renewal Plan for the Canton Industrial Area. It would remove the textual description of the boundary of the plan and replace it with a map. The effect of the change appears to remove 4900 Boston Street from the Plan. The bill also replaces existing Exhibits 1, 4 and 4a with new exhibits. The bill references an existing Exhibit 4a, but that exhibit is not available to review online. If there is no existing Exhibit 4a, the bill should be amended to reflect that fact.

Any changes in an Urban Renewal plan, such as these changes, must be made by ordinance. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g)(1). Since this is not a technical amendment but is instead one that affects the area encompassed by the Plan, it requires the same notice as that required to adopt the original ordinance that created the Plan. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(g) (2), (3). Thus, notice of the City Council hearing must be posted in the neighborhood of the area involved at least ten days prior to the hearing. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(i). Additionally, notice of the City Council hearing must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore City. City Code, Art. 13, § 2-6(d)(3)(ii).

Additionally, any notice and hearing requirements in the Plan itself must be followed. Paragraph E of the Plan requires that the City Department of Housing and Community Development give any proposed amendment to the “Canton Industrial Association and groups representing neighborhoods adjacent to the Canton Industrial Area” no later than the time the Planning Department receives the proposed amendment. Plan, ¶ E. The Canton Industrial Association and other adjacent neighborhood groups have three weeks to respond to any proposed change and if they fail to do so, the change is deemed satisfactory. Plan, ¶ E. There must be a public hearing on the change. Plan, ¶ E. At least ten days before that hearing, the Canton Industrial Association and other adjacent neighborhood groups must be given written notice of the date and time of that hearing. Plan, ¶ E. Similarly, for “any land in the project area previously disposed of by the City for use in accordance with the Canton Industrial Urban Renewal Plan,” the previous

owner must be given ten days' notice of the hearing and access to a copy of the proposed changes. Plan, ¶ E.

Assuming these notice requirements are met, the Law Department can approve City Council Bill 21-0056 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



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Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor