
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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CITY SOLICITOR
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

September 18, 2024

The Honorable President
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 24-0507 - Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0507 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of requiring the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council assessing the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining native plant communities (otherwise known as “urban meadows”) and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows; and providing for a special effective date.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may “exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City,” and may “pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City.” City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47). Moreover, Section 2(a) of Article VII of the Charter allows for ordinances to give additional duties to “a department, officer, commission, board or other municipal agency” so long as those duties are “consistent with the Charter and subject to the supervision of a superior municipal officer or agency.” Charter, Art. VII, § 2(a).

Therefore, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashlea Brown', enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Ashlea Brown
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Stephen Salsbury, Deputy Solicitor
Nina Themelis, MOGR
Elena DiPietro, Chief, General Counsel
Hilary Ruley
Michele Toth
Desiree Luckey