

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

August 26, 2014

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 14-0385 – Urban Renewal – Johnston Square -  
Amendment

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0385 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill amends the Urban Renewal Plan for Johnston Square to: (1) reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area; (2) remove certain properties from the list in Appendices A and B; and (3) extend the life of the Plan. The bill also waives certain content and procedural requirements, makes the provisions of this Ordinance severable, provides for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances, and provides for a special effective date.

An amendment to this bill is necessary in order to reauthorize the Plan's powers of acquisition and condemnation so that these actions may legally continue in compliance with Section 12-105.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Article 13, Sections 2-6(g)(1) and (2) of the City Code require that any change to an Urban Renewal Plan be made by ordinance and be adopted and approved in the same manner as that required for the adoption and approval of a new Renewal Plan. As this bill is the appropriate mechanism for making changes to the Plan and there are no legal impediments to those changes, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.



Sincerely,

Jennifer Landis  
Special Assistant Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Victor Tervalo, Chief Solicitor

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