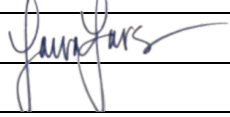




CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

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| TO | The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council |
| FROM | Laura Larsen, Budget Director  |
| DATE | September 19 th , 2024 |
| SUBJECT | 24-0507 Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows |

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-507, Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows, 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.

Background

Council Bill 24-507, Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows would require the City Administrator, the Office of Sustainability and the Commission on Sustainability, to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council that assesses the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining native plant communities (urban meadows) and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows.

Fiscal Impact

The cost benefit analysis requested in the ordinance will take into account the upfront and recurring costs of establishing urban meadows. These costs may include property acquisition and remediation, planting, and any recurring maintenance. The analysis will also factor in potential benefits, both economic and non-economic. The results of this analysis would inform any future funding requirements to establish urban meadows.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance anticipates no financial impact of the proposed ordinance; however, future recommendations from the requested report may have a financial impact.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 24-507.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis