

---

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY THOMPSON  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

---

June 15, 2026

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 26-0155 – Franchise – Installation of a Private 1 ½ Inch Diameter  
Sanitary Sewer – South Newkirk Street

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0155 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would grant a franchise to SI Baltimore QOZB#1, LLC, to construct, use, and maintain a 1.5-inch diameter sanitary sewer main under South Newkirk Street under certain terms, conditions, and reservations. The bill would become effective immediately upon enactment.

Article VIII of the City Charter requires a franchise for any private use related to public streets, among other public property. *See* Charter, Art. VIII, § 1. A franchise must be granted by ordinance containing the terms and conditions of the grant, consistent with Charter requirements, including the “nature, extent and duration”, and the “rates, fares and charges”, as applicable. Charter, Art. VIII, §§ 1 and 2.

A bill granting a franchise must be referred to the Board of Estimates (“BOE”) after first reading. Charter, Art. VIII, § 2. Thereafter, the BOE may increase the compensation and alter the terms and conditions of the proposed franchise, and in any case must approve the terms and compensation by vote or resolution. *Id.* The BOE’s approval must be attached to the ordinance before enactment. *Id.*

The bill appears to contain the necessary franchise terms and conditions. Assuming the above procedural requirements are met, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Note, however, a typo in the last word of line 21 on page 2 (“thisn”) should be corrected.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochstetler  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Ashlea Brown  
Michelle Toth  
Desireé Luckey