

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 17-0054  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: The Council President  
At the request of: The Administration (Department of Transportation)  
Introduced and read first time: April 24, 2017  
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Planning, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Fire Department, Board of Estimates

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Franchise – Bridgeway over Centre Street**

3 FOR the purpose of granting a franchise to MD-601 N. Calvert, LLC, to use and maintain an  
4 existing elevated bridgeway that is located above and across Centre Street approximately 120  
5 feet east of Calvert Street, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and  
6 providing for a special effective date.

7 BY authority of  
8 Article VIII - Franchises  
9 Baltimore City Charter  
10 (1996 Edition)

11 **Recitals**

12 Ordinance 599 of 1990 granted permission and authority to The Baltimore Sun  
13 Company, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate at its  
14 own expense, for a period not exceeding 25 years, an elevated walkway or  
15 bridgeway above and across Centre Street, about 119.54 feet east of the east  
16 building line of Calvert Street, which elevated walkway or bridgeway was to  
17 connect the existing building of The Baltimore Sun on the north side of Centre  
18 Street with the existing building of The Baltimore Sun on the south side of Centre  
19 Street.

20 Since the effective date of the Ordinance, the title of the real property has been  
21 transferred, and MD-601 N. Calvert, LLC, is the current owner. Although the  
22 original franchise has expired, the franchise fee has continued to be paid. MD-  
23 601 N. Calvert, LLC, requests that the franchise be reestablished for an additional  
24 25 years.

25 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That a  
26 franchise or right is granted to MD-601 North Calvert, LLC, its tenants, successors, and assigns  
27 (collectively, the “Grantee”) to use and maintain, at Grantee’s own cost and expense, and subject

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance, the existing elevated bridgeway above and across  
2 Calvert Street about 119.54 feet east of the east building line of Calvert Street, which elevated  
3 walkway or bridgeway connects the existing building of the Grantee situated on the north side of  
4 Centre Street with the existing building of the Grantee situated on the south side of Centre Street.

5 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That to become effective, the franchise or right  
6 granted by this Ordinance (the "Franchise") must be executed and enjoyed by the Grantee within  
7 6 months after the effective date of this Ordinance.

8 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That as compensation for the Franchise, the  
9 Grantee shall pay to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore a franchise charge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a  
10 year, subject to increase or decrease as provided in Section 5 of this Ordinance. The franchise  
11 charge must be paid annually, at least 30 days before the initial and each renewal term of the  
12 Franchise.

13 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That:

14 (a) The initial term of the Franchise is 1 year, commencing on the effective date of this  
15 Ordinance. Unless sooner terminated as provided in this Ordinance, the Franchise will  
16 automatically renew, without any action by either the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore or  
17 the Grantee, for 24 consecutive 1-year renewal terms. Except as otherwise provided in this  
18 Ordinance, each renewal term will be on the same terms and conditions as the initial term. The  
19 maximum duration for which the Franchise may operate, including the initial and all renewal  
20 terms, is 25 years.

21 (b) Either the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Director of  
22 Transportation, or the Grantee may cancel the Franchise as at the end of the initial or any renewal  
23 term by giving written notice of cancellation to the other at least 90 days before the end of that  
24 term.

25 **SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore,  
26 acting by and through the Board of Estimates, may increase or decrease the annual franchise  
27 charge by giving written notice of the increase or decrease to the Grantee at least 150 days before  
28 the end of the original or renewal term immediately preceding the renewal term to which the  
29 increase or decrease will first apply. The new franchise charge will apply to all subsequent  
30 annual renewal terms, unless again increased or decreased in accordance with this section.

31 **SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore  
32 expressly reserves the right at all times to exercise, in the interest of the public, full municipal  
33 superintendence, regulation, and control over and in respect to all matters connected with the  
34 Franchise and not inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance.

35 **SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That the Grantee, at its own cost and expense,  
36 shall maintain in good condition and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of  
37 Baltimore City, all structures for which the Franchise is granted. The maintenance of these  
38 structures shall be at all times subject to the regulation and control of the Commissioner of  
39 Housing and Community Development and the Director of Transportation. If any structure for  
40 which the Franchise is granted must be readjusted, relocated, protected, or supported to  
41 accommodate a public improvement, the Grantee shall pay all costs and expenses in connection  
42 with the readjustment, relocation, protection, or support.

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1       **SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That at the option of the Mayor and City  
2 Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Director of Transportation, the Grantee’s failure  
3 to comply with any term or condition of this Ordinance constitutes a forfeiture of the Franchise.  
4 Immediately on written notice to the Grantee of the exercise of this option, the Franchise  
5 terminates. Once so terminated, only an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore  
6 may waive the forfeiture or otherwise reinstate the Franchise.

7       **SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That at any time and without prior notice, the  
8 Mayor of Baltimore City may revoke the Franchise if, in the Mayor’s judgment, the public  
9 interest, welfare, safety, or convenience so requires. Immediately on written notice to the  
10 Grantee of the exercise of this right, the Franchise terminates.

11       **SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That on cancellation, expiration, forfeiture,  
12 revocation, or other termination of the Franchise for any reason, the Grantee shall remove all  
13 structures for which the Franchise is granted. The removal of these structures shall be  
14 (i) undertaken at the cost and expense of the Grantee, without any compensation from the Mayor  
15 and City Council of Baltimore, (ii) made in a manner satisfactory to the Commissioner of  
16 Housing and Community Development and the Director of Transportation, and (iii) completed  
17 within the time specified in writing by the Director of Transportation.

18       **SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That the Grantee is liable for and shall  
19 indemnify and save harmless the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore against all suits, losses,  
20 costs, claims, damages, or expenses to which the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is at any  
21 time subjected on account of, or in any way resulting from, (i) the presence, construction, use,  
22 operation, maintenance, alteration, repair, location, relocation, or removal of any of the structures  
23 for which the Franchise is granted, or (ii) any failure of the Grantee, its officers, employees, or  
24 agents, to perform promptly and properly any duty or obligation imposed on the Grantee by this  
25 Ordinance.

26       **SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it  
27 is enacted.