
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



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

December 19, 2025

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 25-0129 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Recreation and Parks (Service 654 - Urban Forestry) – \$415,146

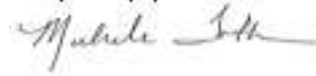
Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0129 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$415,146 to the Department of Recreation and Parks – Service 654 (Urban Forestry), to provide funding for 2 positions, a job training program, and a green building class to expand the Camp Small wood-recycling operations in hopes of advancing Baltimore’s sustainability and equity goals. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

The submission to the Board of Estimates for Council Bill 25-0129 identifies as the source of funds Project Fund GRT002960-CCA000994. The Project Fund number is not mentioned in Council Bill 25-0129; however, the bill does designate that the supplementary appropriation will go to a single identified service-Service 654 – Urban Forestry. The Council bill cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure. This information is stated in Council Bill 25-0129. The bill states that the funds are from a grant of State funds from the State Department of Natural Resources’ Community Forest Catalyst Fund.

The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michele Toth", written in a cursive style.

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Ethan Hasiuk
Shamoyia Gardiner
Nina Themelis
Ty'lor Schnella
Aaron Degraffenreidt
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Desiree Luckey
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