

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 19-0465		

DATE: November 18, 2019

TO

TO Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0465 introduced by Council Member Costello.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Bill, among other things, is to create a community benefits district for Port Covington; specify the boundaries of the District; create a community benefits district management authority and provide for its rights, duties and powers; provide for the selection and composition of the Authority’s Board of Directors and for an Administrator for the Authority; mandate the financial responsibilities of the Authority and the City in conjunction with the operation of the District; provide for the assessment, collection and enforcement of a supplemental tax to be collected by and for the Authority, and for the creation of separate classes and subclasses of property for the purpose of establishing different rates of supplemental tax; authorize the creation of credits to facilitate a diverse residential mix; specify the City’s role in maintaining and enhancing existing services; encourage the creation of partnerships between and among the Authority, the City, the state, the federal government and other property owners not subject to the supplemental tax; designate the Board of Estimates as the agency charged with reviewing and approving various matters relating to the District and the Authority; provide for the renewal, expiration, termination and approval of the District and Authority; and provide for a special effective date.

BRIEF HISTORY

Article II of the Baltimore City Charter authorizes the City to establish up to six community benefit district management authorities by ordinance, provided that 58 percent of the people in the proposed district concur. The purpose of these authorities is to promote and market the district areas, provide supplemental security and maintenance services, and other public amenities. City Council Bill 19-0465 proposes to add a sixth benefit district to be known as the Port Covington District and Port Covington Community Benefits District Management Authority.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Public Works is an active partner with the existing four Districts and Authorities and the newly formed York Road Corridor Business Improvement District and Authority. The Department provides baseline services through individual baseline services agreements, and it is anticipated that a similar process would be implemented with the Port Covington District and Port Covington Community Benefits District Management Authority should City Council Bill 19-0465 be approved and enacted. Typically, one baseline service agreement stipulates what each affected agency commits to provide within the defined district. For the Bureau of Solid Waste, these services have included curbside mixed refuse and recycling collection, placement and emptying of corner cans, frequency of street cleaning along corridors and identified portions of side streets, graffiti removal, rat abatement, and any other services routinely provided.

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
November 18, 2019
Page 2

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of Public Works has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 19-0465 provided that the Department of Law finds the legislation legally sufficient.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960 (Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rudolph S. Chow" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC:MMC