

---

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 25-0125 – Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital  
Appropriation – Department of Planning – \$17,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0125 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary Department of Planning Project Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$17,000,000 to the Department of Planning – PRJ003617 (Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative - MBRI), to support the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to design and construct the Smith Cove Project (SCP). The bill would take effect on its date of enactment.

The submission to the Board of Estimates for Council Bill 25-0125 identifies the Project Fund as PRJ003617-RC0603. 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 is stated in Council Bill 25-0125. The bill states that the funds are from a grant of State funds for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative.

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".

Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Ethan Hasiuk

Shamoyia Gardiner  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Desiree Luckey  
Ahleah Knapp