September 22, 2020

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 20-0587 – Perkins Somerset Oldtown Development District

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0587 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill proposes to create the Perkins Somerset Oldtown Development District ("the District") and a special tax increment fund for the District.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes the creation of development districts and tax increment funds for those districts by Ordinance. City Charter, Art. II, § (62)(b). The City can then issue bonds for the purpose of financing the development of industrial, commercial or residential areas in the District. In order to issue such bonds, however, the City must first: (1) designate by ordinance an area or areas within the City as a "development district"; and (2) "provide that until the bonds have been fully paid or thereafter," a specified increment of the property taxes on real property within the development district shall be paid into a special fund and applied only to certain authorized purposes. City Charter, Art. II, § (62)(d).

The Law Department notes that the bill references an Exhibit 1 map that appears to be inadvertently missing from the First Reader copy of this bill. The Law Department assumes that this map will be included in the final copy of the bill. Assuming the map is inserted as Exhibit 1, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor

Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor