

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

August 19, 2016

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 16-0721 – City Streets – Closing – Portion of a 12-Foot Alley

Dear President and City Council Members:

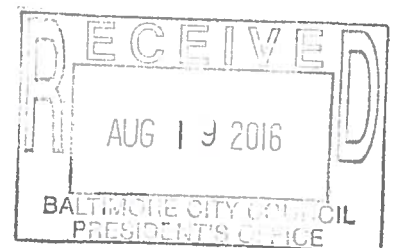
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0721 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would allow the City to condemn and close a portion of a 12-foot alley that it no longer needs. The bill expressly reserves the rights the Mayor and City Council has in the structures located under the street bed, including access rights.

Section (34) of Article II of the City Charter grants the Mayor and City Council the power to “construct, open, extend, widen, straighten or close streets, bridges, tunnels or approaches to them and other public ways of every kind within the bounds of the City.” Section 166(b)(2) of Article VII of the City Charter requires the Department of Transportation to prepare all ordinances for the opening and closing of streets. *See* Resolution 14-016 (transferring this power to the Department of Transportation), approved by the voters on November 4, 2014.

As this bill meets with the applicable sections of the Charter, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Hilary Ruley  
Chief Solicitor



cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Victor Terval, Chief Solicitor  
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor