



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0214

Franchise - Underground Snow Melt System

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: September 20, 2022

Time (Beginning): 2:28 PM

Time (Ending): 3:00 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chambers / Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Ryan Dorsey Mark Conway Antonio Glover Robert Stokes Odette Ramos

- Bill Synopsis in the file? yes no n/a
- Attendance sheet in the file? yes no n/a
- Agency reports read?..... yes no n/a
- Video or audio-digitally recorded?..... yes no n/a
- Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? yes no n/a
- Evidence of notification to property owners?..... yes no n/a
- Final vote taken at this hearing? yes no n/a

Motioned by:.....Councilmember

Seconded by:.....Councilmember

Final Vote:.....

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
- Michelle Toth, Department of Law

- Arco Sen, Parking Authority of Baltimore City
- Pedro Aponte, Department of Finance
- Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Governmental Relations
- S. Seltzer, Resident
- Caroline Hecker, Esquire, Representing Johns Hopkins
- Chris Lagana, Senior Director for Design and Construction, Representing Johns Hopkins

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record.
2. Councilmember Stokes asked for an explanation of what is a snow melt system. He wanted the developer to explain the design plan for the system.
3. Liam Davis explained that Johns Hopkins has an active construction site on 1700 block of Monument Street. The plan is to install a snow melt system which would help prevent the ground from freezing. The annual franchise fee is \$70.30 annually for 25 years. The snow melt system is limited to the sidewalk in one area. Design plans for the system are handled by the City’s Right of Way Division.
4. Ms. Seltzer provided public testimony and was interested in reviewing the design plan for the system. She also wanted more information about the cost of the system. She spoke about protecting the environment. She provided the committee with handouts.
5. The committee discussed the snow melt system. The committee expressed concerns about protection of children; activation of the system and control of the temperature; and outreach to the surrounding community.
6. Chris Lagana explained that the system is not electric, but is operated with the use of a fluid circulated in a tube beneath the ground. The system is not harmful and will be paid for by the hospital. The system reduces the use of salt on the street.
7. Agency representatives testified on behalf of their respective agencies.
8. The hearing was recessed to allow the developer to discuss the plan with the district councilmember.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair

John Bullock:

Mark Conway:

Ryan Dorsey:
Antonio Glover:.....
Robert Stokes:.....
Odette Ramos:

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: September 20, 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File