
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

January 20, 2023

Honorable President
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 22-0135R – Informational Hearing – Code Enforcement — Non-Residential Property

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 22-0135R. The bill requests representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development Code Enforcement Division and the Department of Planning Division of Community Planning and Revitalization to provide data for unoccupied, vacant, and abandoned non-residential properties regarding code violations at these properties, a review of licensing and registration requirements for these properties, data demonstrating whether such properties are complying with City Code registration requirements, and guidance about how to address long-term vacancies at non-residential properties.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards.

Council Bill 22-0135R is an appropriate resolution to initiate the informational hearing and request the specified officials to attend the hearing. The Law Department approves Council Bill 22-0135R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Special Solicitor

cc: Nikki Thompson
Nina Themelis
Elena DiPietro
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Jeff Hochstetler
Dereka Bolden