
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

May 3, 2023

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

RE: Council Bill 22-0130R – Investigative Hearing – Routine Maintenance of City-Owned Lots and Buildings

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 22-0130R. The bill requests representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Planning, the Department of Transportation, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Real Estate, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, and other interested parties to discuss the current condition of City-owned lots and buildings, how maintenance of such properties can be improved, and the impact poorly-maintained City-owned lots and buildings have on Baltimore City as a whole.

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 22-0130R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request the specified officials to attend to provide information on routine maintenance of City-owned lots and buildings. The Law Department approves Council Bill 22-0130R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Special Solicitor

cc: Nina Themelis
Sofia Gebrehiwot
Elena DiPietro
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Jeff Hochstetler
Teresa Cummings