



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: KC Kelleher, Director of Communications & Policy, Office of the Comptroller

Date: May 16, 2023

Re: 22-0130R Informational Hearing - Routine Maintenance of City-Owned Lots and Buildings

The Department of Real Estate is responding to the request for a report on **22-0130R Informational Hearing - Routine Maintenance of City-Owned Lots and Buildings**. The purpose of this bill is to invite 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.

The Department of Real Estate (DoRE), under the office of the Comptroller, is responsible for approximately 1300 City-owned parcels. These “legacy lots” were purchased by the City of Baltimore through the tax sale process in the 1980s and 1990s. At that time the City was acquiring significant numbers of tax sale properties. These lots are

The DoRE does not have a budget for vacant lot maintenance. As a result, vacant lot maintenance calls are most often referred to other agencies of the City who may have the capacity to assist with tree removals and other maintenance issues.

A representative from the Office of the Comptroller will be present at the hearing for **22-0130R**.

CC: Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller’s Office
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office