



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: August 15, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 23-0396 City Streets - Closing - A 20 Foot Alley and Two 10 Foot Alleys

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0396 for the purpose of condemning and closing a 20 foot alley and two 10 foot alleys bounded by Park Heights Avenue, Woodland Avenue, Denmore Avenue, and West Garrison Avenue, as shown on a plat numbered 317-A-28A dated March 6, 2023, and filed in the Department of Transportation; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 23-0396 would provide for the condemning and closing of three alleys that would support the expansion of CC Jackson Park and will be home to a new Park Heights Library building.

The project is located in the Park Heights Impact Investment area and a DHCD Community Development Zone. DHCD's Development Division has undertaken significant acquisition and disposition in Park Heights in order to expand CC Jackson Park. The passage of this Bill will allow for the expansion of the park over the three existing alleys. The asphalt/concrete will be removed, and will be replaced in some instances with park amenities such as a play lawn, sports field, and parking.

This DHCD Development Division project was developed in conjunction with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) and represents a significant investment in the Park Heights Community. As such, certain alleys need to be closed in order to implement the project design for the CC Jackson Park expansion and library. This legislation is a key piece to the timeline for the Park Heights development.

DHCD **supports** the passage of Council Bill 23-0396 and respectfully request a favorable report.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor • **Alice Kennedy**, Housing Commissioner