

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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100 N. Holliday Street
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 23, 2018

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 17-0168 — Special Benefits District — Bmore Safe Places

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0168 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would amend Subtitle 16 of Article 14 of the City Code concerning what is now called the Public Safety Conservation Areas. It would change the name of those areas to be NeighborWatch Areas and add to the certification requirement as part of the application to be a such an area. The bill would change the name of the Baltimore Urban Lighting Board to the Bmore Safe Places Board and increase the Board's membership by three additional people to be appointed by the Mayor. The bill would remove the requirement that any mayoral appointees be members of the Property Owners' Association of Greater Baltimore, Inc. or of the Greater Baltimore Committee. The Boards' duties would be amended to include approval of the signs that the City Department of Transportation ("DOT") would be required to post to designate the areas.

The requirement that DOT erect these signs is arguably within the powers it is permitted to exercise under the Baltimore City Charter. Charter, Art. VII, §116(l). Additionally, all the amendments offered in this bill are permissible exercises of the authority granted to the Mayor and City Council by the General Assembly. Charter, Art. II, §§(27)(47). As there are no legal impediments to this bill, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,


Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor