


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	Mayor and City Council Resolution 19-0332		

DATE: March 4, 2019

TO

TO Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0332 introduced by Council President Young on behalf of the Administration (Office of Sustainability).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Bill is to adopt a new Sustainability Plan for Baltimore City; provide for a special effective date; and generally relating to all elements of sustainability, including air quality, water quality, resource conservation and recycling, energy, public health, environmental justice, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the use of alternative means of transportation.

BRIEF HISTORY

Article 5 § 34-4 of the Baltimore City Code identifies the Commission on Sustainability as the City entity charged with the responsibility of developing a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan for the City of Baltimore and to revise and recommend amendments to the Plan to keep it current and relevant. Ordinance 09-141 was the last adopted Sustainability Plan, and City Council Bill 19-0332 would amend and update that Plan. The Plan provides a framework, or context, for all City plans and advancements going forward. It examines the sustainability challenges and opportunities of the City under the broad categories of Community, Human-made Systems, Climate and Resilience, Nature, and Economy. Furthermore, Baltimore is one of three U.S. cities selected to pilot implementation of new United Nations sustainable development goals which aspire to improve the human and environmental conditions around the world by 2030. The Plan also recognizes that addressing equity issues, both from a policy and community investment standpoint, must be part of any sustainability processes and decisions if we are to be truly successful.

FISCAL IMPACT

While the Sustainability Plan embodied in City Council Bill 19-0332 does not directly stimulate fiscal impacts, its guidance and goals will play a strong role in how the City and its agencies plan and invest currently and in the future.

- **Community:** Residents are looking for ways to improve their neighborhoods, expand the positive activities that make living in an urban environment exciting, and the support of government to help their communities thrive. Environmental educational opportunities, rethinking management of our multiple waste streams, and the new jobs that could result from these developing strategies are just a few of the highlights of this section of the Plan. Partnerships and collaborative efforts on the part of government will be needed to support these strategies.
- **Human-made Systems:** The built environment greatly influences the ways in which communities and people interact, determine where they live, how they access amenities and employment, their ability to traverse from place to place, and their opportunities for healthy environments and activities. Older cities such as Baltimore not only need to maintain existing systems and structures, but also must take into consideration the changing demographics and needs of its communities to envision, plan and deliver on those needs.
- **Climate and Resilience:** Climate change is a global concern, but local governments can play a strong role in educating and preparing communities to combat and minimize some of the risk factors that contribute to climate-

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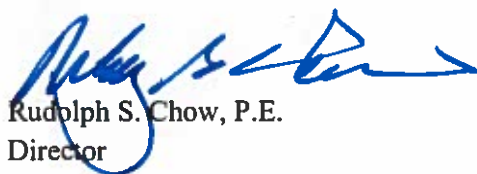
- driven vulnerabilities. Continuing development of renewable energy sources, assisting vulnerable residents and small businesses with energy efficiencies, and expanding the infrastructure that makes these opportunities possible, certainly require the actions of government to support in programs and policy initiatives.
- Nature: Baltimore's urban environment provides opportunities for access to large forested areas, stream valleys, recreational green spaces and of course, the harbor. Maintaining the health of these varied ecosystems, creating better connectivity to communities, and converting unused spaces into expanded green areas, require long-term investments in the City's above and below ground green and gray infrastructure to ensure a healthy future.
- Economy: The economy focus in this Plan encourages development of green job opportunities, guiding youth new to jobs and those seeking better employment, bringing economic change down to the community level, and supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to be successful. This Department has found, through its support of the summer Youth Works program and in its partnerships to create the YH2O program and the Small Business Development Program, that meaningful careers and small local businesses can be equipped to succeed.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 19-0332.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960 (Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov).

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC:MMC