August 3, 2020

The Honorable President and Members

 of the Baltimore City Council

Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

Room 409, City Hall

100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-0540– Corrective- City Streets – Renaming Violet Hill White Way to Violet Hill Whyte Way

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0540 for form and legal sufficiency. This bill changes the name of Violet Hill White Way, which is located between the 700 blocks of West Lexington Street and West Fayette Street and before Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, to Violet Hill Whyte Way.

The City has the power to name this streets under Article 26, Section 7-3 of the Baltimore City Code. That Section requires the ordinance proposing the name be referred to, and reviewed by, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Planning’s Historic and Architectural Preservation Division (HAPD. The section further provides that “no further action shall be taken by the City Council” on the bill “pending the receipt” of the reports from DOT and HAPD.

This bill has been referred to the Planning Commission (Planning), the Department of the Real Estate, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Law Department. Although this bill has not been referred to HAPD, it was referred to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is the head of the Planning Department. Charter Art. VI, Sec. 71. In Art.6 , Sec. 2-1, CHAP Is described as an independent unit of the Planning Department with authority to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of Art. 6. HAPD of the Planning Department seems to have a different role under the auspices of the Planning Department even though there may be cross-over in personnel. Art. 6 of the City Code, which governs CHAP does not mention any role for the Planning Commission or the Planning Department in CHAP’S operations nor does it mention street naming as one of CHAP’s duties. While Referral to the Planning Commission, may not be sufficient to cover CHAP, as head of the Planning Department, the Commission would have oversight of the divisions of the Planning Department including HAPD. Referral to the Commission is therefore sufficient to satisfy the requirement of referral to the Planning Department’s Historical and Architectural Preservation Division.

If the bill reports are received from the Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and those reports are considered by the Committee and the City Council, the Law Department would approve this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,



Elena R. DiPietro

Chief Solicitor

cc: Dana P. Moore, City Solicitor

 Matthew Stegman, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations

 Caylin Young, President’s Legislative Director

 Dominic McAlily

 Nina Themelis, MOGR

 Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

 Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor

 Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor

 Avery Aisenstark