August 20, 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 19-0353 – Charter Amendment –Underground Conduit System –

Sale, Transfer, or Franchise Prohibited

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0353 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill declares the inalienability of the City’s sewer system and water-supply system. It excepts the sewer and water-supply systems, their operations and uses, from the Charter provisions otherwise authorizing the grant of franchises or rights relating to the operation or use of public property or places. The bill submits his amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The Law Department notes that if this bill is adopted, it will appear on the ballot of the general election held in November 2022.

There are no legal impediments to the passage of this bill.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as City Council Bill 19-0353, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Sincerely,



Victor K. Tervala

Chief Solicitor

cc: Dana Moore, Acting Solicitor

Matt Stegman, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison

Caylin Young, President’s Legislative Director

Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division

Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor