

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council

c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

Date: August 27, 2021

Re: City Council Bill 21-0083 Franchise - Gas Regulator Station Utility at Lower Gwynns Falls Park

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0083 for the purpose of granting a franchise to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to construct, use, and maintain a gas regulator station utility, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 21-0083 would allow BGE to relocate gas infrastructure from their existing location under Lower Gwynn Falls Park near the intersections of Hurley and Wilkens Avenue. The relocation of the utility infrastructure is necessary for work to begin to replace the Wilkens Avenue Bridge over Gwynn Falls.

Council Bill 21-0083 would enter the City of Baltimore and BGE into a franchise agreement to have the gas utility relocated. Any location must comply with all applicable laws and Baltimore City regulations. The responsible agency of Gwynn Falls Park is the Department of Parks and Recreation. DHCD has no objection to the relocation of utility infrastructure located at Gwynn Falls Park in order for construction of the Wilkens Avenue bridge to begin.

DHCD does not object to the passage of City Council Bill 21-0083