

Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement

Council Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ - 2024, declaring that public tree maintenance easements containing approximately 0.1595 acres conveyed to Howard County, Maryland is no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to terminate the easement interest in the property of the fee simple owner Baltimore Gas and Electric Company; waiving advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code in order to convey the easement interest to the fee simple owner; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to terminate the easement interests if he finds that the easement may have a public use.

To: Brandee Ganz,

Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Yosef Kebede, Director

Department of Public Works

**Date:** March 21, 2024

The Department of Public Works has been designated coordinator for preparation of testimony declaring that public tree maintenances easements containing approximately 0.1595 acres, conveyed to Howard County, Maryland, is no longer needed by the County for public purposes, authorizing the County Executive to terminate the easement interests, vesting title to the fee simple owner, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company ("BGE"); and providing that the County Executive is not bound to terminate the easement interests if he finds that the easements may have a further public use.

BGE is the fee simple owner of that certain real property shown on Tax Map 31 as Parcel No. 557 (the "Property"). As part of F-20-021, the County acquired a right of way for public tree maintenance (the "Public Tree Maintenance Easement") on the Property by Deed of Easement dated October 26, 2020, and recorded among the Land Records of Howard County, Maryland in Book 20511, Page 306, on April 26, 2021.

The Director of Public Works has received a written petition from the Owner to release public tree maintenance easements containing approximately 0.1595 acres, as described and shown as "Public Tree Maintenance Easement "A", "Public Tree Maintenance Easement "C" (collectively the "Easement to be Abandoned") on sheets 2 and 3 on the plat titled "Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. (BGE), BGE Howard Service Center".

Since recording the Plat, BGE has abandoned plans to redevelop the Property and will not be planting public trees as required under the plans. The County reviewed the easement termination petition submitted by BGE and determined that the Easement to be Abandoned is no longer required for public purposes.

Section 4.201, "Disposition of real property" of the Howard County Code authorizes the

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County Council to declare that the Easement to be Abandoned is no longer needed for the public purposes.

There is no fiscal impact associated with this termination of the easements.

Representatives of this department will be present at the public hearing to answer any questions or concerns. If you require any further information concerning this matter or have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

YK/EI

cc: Jennifer Sager

File

SP/Legislation/2024/BGE Ilchester Road