



Loch Raven Improvement Association, Inc.

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THELOCHRAVENIMPROVEMENTASSOCIATION@hotmail.com

February 17, 2023

Baltimore City Board of Estimates
City Hall, Room 204
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Clerk for Baltimore City Board of Estimates,

The Loch Raven Improvement Association, Inc. (LRIA) is a 501(c)3 community association representing approximately 1200 homes and businesses in northeast Baltimore City. Established in 1952, the LRIA has a longstanding commitment to serving the residents and taxpayers of this catchment area, and maintaining a neighborhood which is safe, clean, and strong. Our longevity also gives us uniquely-qualified experience and perspective as to what is happening in and around our City.

The LRIA has carefully reviewed Baltimore City's amendment agreement with Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), relating to what we believe to be a rushed and non-transparent process in awarding BGE maintenance franchise oversight of the City's conduit system. In what appears to be blatant disregard to the voice of the people, as per Baltimore City Charter Amendment vote during November's 2022 Gubernatorial Election, the City has circumvented the overwhelming opposition to the sale or lease of the conduit system, or semblance thereof.

Loch Raven also heard testimony during the recent City Council Legislative Investigations Hearing on February 9, 2023, whereas debate and presentation from several councilmembers and under-represented firms clearly indicated the need for further evaluation and public discussion on control and utilization of the conduit system. Without any previous information being disclosed for public scrutiny prior to the award, we feel that several topics of concern were met with uncertain and ill-defined responses, including the impact of almost-certain utility rate increases to already-overwhelmed City residents and the granting of this massive award to a sole-source vendor without a competitive bidding process. With its history and track record, and the length of this new, enduring contract, BGE will have every ability to crowd-out minority and small business, prioritize conduit use to their own benefit, and introduce even further fee escalation to consumers later into the term.

As of this writing, the Loch Raven Improvement Association, Inc. objects to the rushed and ill-considered approval of Baltimore City's Conduit Maintenance Agreement with Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, particularly by using the calculated vote of only the Mayor and his appointees, and is in **OPPOSITION** to furtherance of this matter until due investigatory and open comment period can be satisfied.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec J. Wheaden
President
Loch Raven Improvement Association, Inc.

"Northeast Baltimore neighbors working together to maintain the highest quality of community life by ensuring that our neighborhoods remain safe, clean and strong."

Cc: Honorable Brandon Scott, Mayor, Baltimore City
Honorable Nick Mosby, City Council President
Honorable Bill Henry, City Comptroller
Honorable Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Honorable Jason Mitchell, Director - Director of Public Works
Honorable Isabel Cumming, City Inspector General
Honorable Mark Conway, 4th District Councilman
Honorable Anthony Brown, Maryland State Attorney General
Honorable Mary Washington, Senator Legislative District 43A
Honorable Regina Boyce, Delegate Legislative District 43A
Honorable Elizabeth Embry, Delegate Legislative District 43A
Honorable Cory McCray, Senator Legislative District 45
Honorable Jacqueline Addison, Delegate Legislative District 45
Honorable Stephanie Smith, Delegate Legislative District 45
Honorable Caylin Young, Delegate Legislative District 45
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