

respect to the abutting property, which map or plat shall be included by the Department of Assessments in the return of its proceedings.

2. Whenever proceedings are instituted under Article 33-A of the Code of Public General Laws of the State of Maryland, by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the acquisition of any property, situate in Baltimore City, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore may file with its petition for condemnation, or at any time before the selection of the jury in said proceedings, a request for the appointment of appraisers to value such property. Upon the filing of said request for the appointment of appraisers, the court or any judge thereof, shall appoint as appraisers three (3) citizens of the City of Baltimore, not in anywise interested in the property to be condemned, nor related to the owner or owners thereof, each of whom shall, before acting, make oath before the clerk of said court, that he will justly and impartially value the property described in this petition for condemnation and the interests of the several owners thereof, and the said appraisers shall value the property, and apportion the same among the owner or owners thereof, according to the value of their respective interests and return, within ten (10) days from the date of their appointment, to the said court, said valuation, under their hands and seals, and immediately upon the return of the appraisers of their valuation to the court, the City may pay to the owner or owners of such property, according to their respective interests, the amount of such valuation and give bond, with penalty to be fixed by the court, and security to be approved by the court, to pay any additional amount which may be finally determined to be due and, thereupon, at any time after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of payment of the amount fixed by the appraisers, the City may take possession of the property and proceed with the improvement for which the same is sought to be acquired; and the acceptance by the property owner of the sum fixed by the appraisers, shall not prejudice his contention, if he makes such contention, that he should be allowed a larger sum. Thereafter, the proceedings shall continue, and the jury shall fix the damages to be awarded for said property as if said payment had not been made. If the property to be acquired is to be used for the laying out, opening, extending, widening or straightening of any highway, street, square, lane or alley, after the damages to be awarded have been ascertained by the jury in such proceedings, the Department of Assessments shall proceed to assess the benefits for said laying out, opening, extending, widening or straightening of said highway, street, square, lane or alley, in the same manner as if damages had been assessed by it under Section 228 of the Baltimore City Charter (1938 Edition). The Department of Assessments shall state in their report