

Council of Baltimore ten days after PERSONAL service of the petition upon each and every defendant unless the Defendants or any of them shall file an answer to the Petition within the said ten day period alleging that the City does not have the right or power to condemn title to the property. In the event the defendants or any of them should file an answer, the court shall schedule a hearing within fifteen days of the date of the filing of an answer, which hearing shall be only for the purpose of contesting the right or power of the City to condemn title to the property. The trial court shall render its decision within fifteen days from the final day of said hearing. The City or the defendants or any of them shall have an immediate right of appeal to the Court of Appeals of Maryland from the decision of the trial court.

[(c)] (d) If it appears from **[said]** a Petition for Immediate Possession, with or without supporting affidavits or sworn testimony, that the public interest requires the City to have immediate possession of said property, the court shall, within not more than seven days after the filing of said Petition, pass on order, either ex parte or after a hearing, directing that the City may take possession of said property after the expiration of thirty days from the filing of said petition or earlier, in the court's discretion. Upon passing such an order, the court may direct the City to give such notice of said order to the defendants as the court may deem proper, but the court's requirement of notice shall not extend the time within which the City may take possession of said property.

[(d)] If an exparte Order for immediate possession is passed, without notice having been given to the Defendants, or if, in the Court's opinion, the Defendants will not have had an opportunity to have an appraisal made of said property to the time that the City takes possession thereof, the Court may appoint a qualified independent appraiser to value the property and the respective interests of the Defendants therein, and to return said appraisal under his hand and seal to the Court prior to the expiration of thirty days from the date of the filing of the aforesaid for Immediate Taking. The compensation of such appraiser shall be fixed by the Court and shall be paid by the City. The Court may also require the City, at its expense, to take suitable photographs of the property being acquired and to file them in the proceedings before taking possession. **]**

(e) After an Order has been passed as aforesaid, directing that the City may *either* take possession of the property *or take title and possession of the property*, the City shall no longer have the right to abandon said condemnation proceedings except with the consent of all of the owners of said property.

(f) At any time after the Order shall have been signed directing that the City may *either* take possession *or title and possession* of the property, the property owner or owners **[upon written request to the Clerk of said Court, shall be entitled to immediately receive such sum so paid into Court, according to their respective interest]** *may petition the court who shall, by order, direct the clerk to pay such sum so paid into court unto such owner or owners according to their respective interest, less any public charges, City and state taxes, other assessments, and any ground rent paid by the City for and on behalf of the property owner, all adjusted to the date of*