

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 12, 2014

The Honorable President and  
Members of the Baltimore  
City Council  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

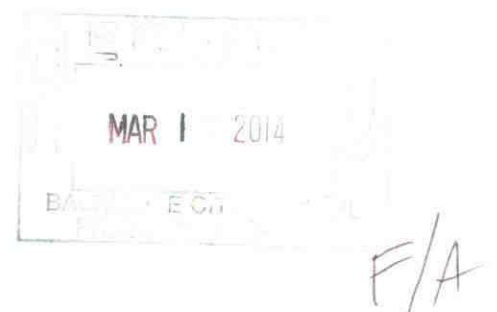
RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0292 – Animal Abuse – Reporting and  
Community Involvement

Dear President and Members:

You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 13-0292. City Council Bill 13-0292 adds the City's 911 system as a means for making an oral complaint regarding animal cruelty. It also increases the number of board members on the Animal Abuse Advisory Board from 26 to 28.

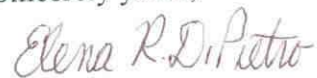
Maryland Ann. Code Public Safety Art. § 1-304 requires each county in Maryland to have an enhanced 9-1-1 system. §1-304(c)(1) states that services available through a 9-1-1 system shall include police, fire fighting, and emergency ambulance services and (2) Other emergency and civil defense services may be incorporated into the 9-1-1 system at the discretion of the county or counties served by the 9-1-1 system. In addition, a public safety agency whose services are available through the 9-1-1 system shall maintain a separate telephone number for nonemergency calls. §1-304(d)(2)(ii).

Accordingly, the 9-1-1 system must be reserved for emergency calls for police, fire and ambulance and other emergency or civil defense services. Nonemergency calls must be made to a separate number. In order to be consistent with State law regarding use of a 9-1-1 system, only emergency animal abuse complaints should be made to the 9-1-1 system. The bill should be clarified to reflect State law limitations.



If amended as recommended, the Law Department can approve City Council Bill 13-0292 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Elena R. DiPietro  
Chief Solicitor

cc: George A. Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison  
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor  
Victor Tervalo, Assistant Solicitor  
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor

**AMENDMENTS CITY COUNCIL BILL 13-0292**

1. On page 2, after line 17, insert “(2)(i) Only emergency complaints made pursuant to this Title shall be made to the 9-1-1 emergency call system.”