

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

November 16, 2015

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 15-0586 – University of Maryland Baltimore BioPark  
Development District

Dear President and City Council Members:

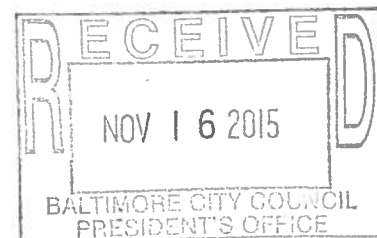
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0586 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill proposes to designate the University of Maryland Baltimore BioPark Development District in accordance with the City Charter as it was recently amended by the General Assembly to allow for this type of economic incentive. 2014 Md. Laws, Ch. 530, 531 §1 (codified in City Charter, Art. II, §§ (62)(l), (62A)(u)); *see also Kimball-Tyler co. v. Baltimore*, 214 Md. 86, 94 (1957)(Article II of the City Charter is state law enacted only by the General Assembly).

These state laws allow the City to use the process in Sections (62) and (62A) of the City Charter for a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (“RISE”) Zone. City Charter, Art. II, §§ (62)(l), (62A)(u))(adding RISE incentive “in addition to the powers” already granted in these sections). A development district must be designated by ordinance, and such a district is a prerequisite to the issuance of bonds for RISE zone projects. City Charter, Art. II, §§ (62)(b)(10), (62)(d)(1).

Since this bill is consistent with the City’s authority in Section (62) of Article II of the City Charter, as modified by the state economic development laws on RISE zones, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Hilary Ruley  
Chief Solicitor



cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Victor Tervalva, Chief Solicitor  
Joann Levin, Chief Solicitor  
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor