

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

March 22, 2016

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 16-0635 – Supplemental Appropriation – Police  
Department – \$1,200,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0635 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 to the Police Department of Baltimore City. The source of the funds is the assigned General Fund balance. The bill is effective on the date it is enacted.

The City Charter establishes the criteria for making supplementary appropriations. City Charter, Art. VI, §8. Section 8(b)(3) of Article VI of the City Charter permits such a supplementary appropriation when there has been “a material change in circumstance or additional appropriations for new programs which could not reasonably be anticipated at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates” for Fiscal Year 2016. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and must be approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance, which must identify the source of the funds and may only encompass a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” Although the Police Department is a state agency, state law requires following similar budget and appropriation processes as municipal agencies. Public Local Laws, §§16-2, 16-7, 16-8. The Law Department approves this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

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Chief Solicitor

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

