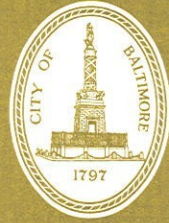


CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

April 8, 2009

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

Re: City Council Bill 09-0310 – Building, Fire and Related Codes – Service  
Charges and Permit Fees

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

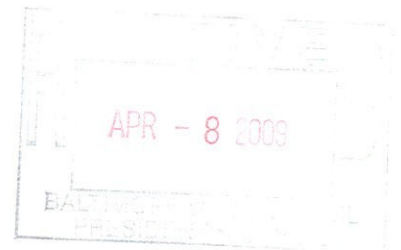
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 09-0310 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would change certain service charges and permit fees with regard to their amounts, the method that they are computed, and the dates on which they are due.

City Council is authorized pursuant to the City's police powers to impose fees which reasonably reflect the cost of regulation. 56 Am. Jur.2d, Municipal Corp. § 424. Therefore, the increased service charges are legally sufficient, assuming that they reflect this cost (the Law Department defers to the Department of Housing for this determination of reasonableness). Furthermore, Article II section 48 of the Charter grants the City the power to impose civil penalties for the violation of any ordinance, rule or regulation established by the City under or in the execution of any power granted by Article II, provided that those fines do not exceed \$1,000. *See* Baltimore City Charter, Art. II § 48.

Accordingly, the Law Department approves Council Bill 09-0310 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Ashlea H. Brown  
Special Assistant Solicitor



cc: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor  
Deepa Bhattacharyya, Assistant Solicitor  
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor  
Avery Aisenstark, Legislative Reference