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*Executive Director: Isabel Cumming*  
*Director: Jeffrey Hochstetler*

**BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ETHICS**

August 20, 2021

**Via Electronic Mail**

The Honorable President  
Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0101 (“Corrective Bill 2021”)

Dear President and City Council Members:

You have referred City Council Bill 21-0101 (“Bill”) to the Ethics Board (“Board”) for comment. The Bill’s stated purpose is for correcting various errors and omissions in the City Code; correcting, clarifying and conforming certain inconsistent, superfluous, vague, ungrammatical, misnumbered, and other unclear language; and providing for a special effective date. The Board **does not oppose** any of the Bill’s changes to Article 8 of the City Code.

Specifically, the Board understands that the January 30th deadline for elected officials to file financial disclosure statements in Section 7-2(a)(2) may have been an error, so supports the more logical January 31st deadline. The Board also supports making explicit in Section 7-13 that a candidate’s financial disclosure statement must include the same required information as an incumbent’s statement. Finally, the Board supports delineating the individuals within the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) who must file financial disclosure statements in Section 7-8. The Board understands that this lack of delineation was likely due to an oversight when relevant changes were made to the structure of the OIG in 2018 through a Charter amendment. However, the Board notes that OIG staff have in practice filed financial disclosure statements annually since that time.

Accordingly, the Board **does not oppose** any of the changes to Article 8 in the Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Hochstetler", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey Hochstetler  
Director, Ethics Board

Cc: Isabel Cumming, Ethics Board Executive Director  
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Affairs