

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

June 2, 2017

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

Re: City Council Bill 17-0063 – Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety

Dear Mr. President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0063 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill establishes the Baltimore City Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety and provides for the Commission's composition, terms of office, meetings, quorum, officers, and rules of procedure. It requires the Commission, in cooperation with the Baltimore City Police Department, to develop annually a Community Interaction Recommendations Report and specifies the elements of the Report.

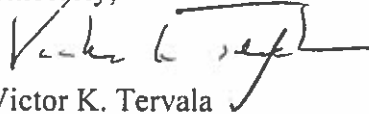
The Law Department notes that two of the ex-officio members represent entities that are not fixed in law but exist at the behest of the City Council President and Mayor: The City Council's Public Safety Committee and the Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement. These entities therefore are subject to reorganization and even termination at some future date. In contrast, if this commission is passed into law, its existence will continue until the commission is repealed by legislative act. For these reasons, the Law Department suggests the adoption of the following amendments to eliminate any confusion in how the law should be interpreted in the event reorganization or termination occurs:

Page 3, line 2, before the semi-colon, insert: "or any City Council Committee succeeding to the duties of the City Council's Public Safety Committee"

Page 3, line 5, before the period, insert: "or any office or agency succeeding to the duties of the Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement relevant to duties of the Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety"

The Law Department concludes, however, that regardless of whether the proposed Law Department amendments are adopted, it will approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,



Victor K. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor

cc: David Ralph, Acting City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor