

CITY OF BALTIMORE



BOARD OF ETHICS
OF BALTIMORE CITY

LINDA B. "LU" PIERSON, Chair
AVERY AISENSTARK, Director
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

October 30, 2019

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Fourth Floor, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

Re: Council Bill 19-0378 {"Ethics Board - Administration and Staff"}

You have referred Council Bill 19-0378 to the Ethics Board for its report and comments. The purpose of this bill, in short, is to transfer responsibility for administration and staffing of the Ethics Board from the Department of Legislative Reference to the Office of the Inspector General.

The Office of the Inspector General's mission and the Ethics Board's mission often overlap in that both organizations exist to ensure honesty and transparency in City government and accountability to the citizens of Baltimore. Further, the Office of the Inspector General employs investigators specifically trained to investigate the misconduct prohibited by the Ethics Code.

To that end, the Ethics Board strongly supports this bill.

Very truly yours,

Tony DeFranco
Deputy Ethics Counsel

cc: the Honorable Eric Costello, Chair of the Judiciary Committee
Matthew Peters

