

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

January 17, 2014

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

Re: City Council Bill 13-0132R- Request for State Action-Strengthening Animal Laws

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0132R for form and legal sufficiency. This resolution calls on the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly to act to strengthen our anti-animal abuse laws by securing the enactment of legislation tightening animal abuse penalties, criminalizing the trafficking of animal fighting paraphernalia, and creating a public registry of violent animal abusers.

In general, a City Council resolution is “an expression of opinion or mind concerning some particular item of business coming within the legislative body’s official cognizance.” *Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium Assoc.*, 545 A.2d 1296, 1303 (Md. 1988) (quoting *McQuillin Mun. Corp.* § 15:2 (3rd Ed.)). Council Bill 13-0132R is an appropriate resolution to express the Council’s concerns about this particular situation

The Law Department approves Council Bill 12-0132R for form and legal sufficiency as consistent with the City Council’s authority to express its views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Elena R. DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

cc: Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison, Mayor’s Office
George Nilson, City Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalo, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor



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