

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

ANDRE M. DAVIS, City Solicitor
101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

August 2, 2018

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

Re: City Council Bill 18-0230 – Ethics Code – Transparency in Lobbying Act

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed Mayor and City Council Bill 18-0230 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of amending the Public Ethics Law to require quarterly rather than annual lobbying reports from lobbyists, to require the Ethics Board to post lobbying reports online within 30 days of their receipt, to require that lobbyists affirmatively identify themselves and their clients when engaging in lobbying activities and, to allow the Ethics Board to prohibit a person found to have violated the lobbying provisions of the Ethics Code from lobbying City public servants for up to 3 years..

In general, the Maryland Public Ethics Law, Art. 5, Subtitle 8, Part II of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code, requires that the City have an Ethics Code that is similar to the provisions of State Ethics Law but allows for modifications to the extent necessary to make the provisions relevant to the prevention of conflicts of interest in that jurisdiction.

City Council Bill 18-0230 complies with the directive in State law with respect to content of local public ethics laws. The Law Department therefore approves City Council Bill 18-023 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

Elena R. DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, MOGR
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalo, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor
Avery Aisenstark