

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

November 14, 2008

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
President, Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 08-0060R {Informational Hearing – XSPAND – Tax Lien Servicer}

Dear Madame President:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0060R {Informational Hearing – XSPAND – Tax Lien Servicer}, the related proposal by the vendor (XSPAND), the bill report completed by the Department of Finance, and the relevant State laws.

While the vendor's proposal is somewhat vague as to the specifics of its alternative tax lien strategies, any procedure that changes the City's current system of public auction of tax liens would require significant changes to State law. The Tax-Property Article of the Maryland Code provides very specific and comprehensive procedures that the City must follow for its tax sale process. Subtitle 8 of Title 14 of the Code would need a significant rewrite in order to allow the City to contract with a vendor for the collection of liens. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Deepa Bhattacharyya  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Demaune Millard, Chief of Staff  
Members, Baltimore City Council  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Carolyn Espy, Chief Assistant Solicitor  
Elena DiPietro, Assistant Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor  
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor

