

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

February 21, 2012

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

Re: City Council Bill 12-0008 – Zoning – Advertising Signs on Bike Sharing Stations

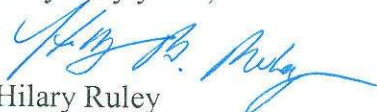
Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0008 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would amend several sections of the Zoning Code to define a bike-sharing station and to exempt such stations in B and M districts from the general ban on outdoor advertising signs. The City is permitted to make exceptions to the general ban as it has done for bus passenger shelters. *See Zoning Code, §11-424; see e.g., Metro Lights v. City of Los Angeles, 551 F.3d 898, 914 (9th Cir. 2009).*

Any amendment to the City's Zoning Code requires advertisement by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City at least 15 days before the hearing. *See Md. Code, Art. 66B, §2.04(b)(2)(i); Zoning Code of Baltimore City, §§16-101(d)(2); 16-402(b)(1); 16-402(c)(2).* In addition, any Zoning Legislation, such as this bill, requires a Third Reading hold-over before final passage by the Council. *See Zoning Code of Baltimore City, §16-404(b).*

Assuming this bill was properly advertised and is held-over before Third Reading, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,


Hilary Ruley
Assistant Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Assistant Solicitor

