

CITY OF BALTIMORE
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



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

October 28, 2016

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 16-0763 –Retail Business Districts – Semiannual Fee
Collection

Dear President and City Council Members:

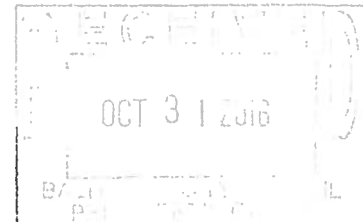
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0736 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would amend Sections 11-7(a) (Collection of fee) and 11-23 (York Road) of Article 14 of the City Code concerning fees for Retail Business Districts. The amendments allow the retail business district license fee for the York Road Retail Business District to be collected semiannually instead of annually.

The Law Department notes that the bill does not seek to change the language in Section 11-10(c), which requires the Department of Finance to transfer the funds to the business districts annually, within 75 days of receipt. This creates an inconsistency for the Department of Finance, which would be obligated to disburse the funds only yearly but also within 75 days of receipt of each semiannual payment. The Law Department recommends an amendment to Section 11-10(c), which simply deletes the words "Each year," from that section, so that all funds are disbursed within 75 days, regardless of when they are received. This would also capture any fees paid late in any Retail Business District and allow them to be disbursed more than once a year.

Subject the foregoing amendment, the Law Department approves this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,


Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor



cc: David Ralph, Acting City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Terval, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor

