

---

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

---

November 4, 2019

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

Re: City Council Bill 19-0159R – Investigative Hearing – Building Backups of  
Untreated Sewage

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0159R for form and legal sufficiency. The resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Public Works, Law Department, Office of Information and Technology, Health Department, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to appear before the City Council to discuss the effectiveness and sufficiency of measures being taken to address basement backups of raw sewage in the City.

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 19-159R is an appropriate resolution to express the Council's concerns about this particular situation and request that appropriate officials to discuss methods to include more MWBE's on exclusive vendor lists at the facilities in question.

Accordingly, the Law Department approves Council Bill 19-0159R for form and legal sufficiency as it is a valid method of conveying City Council's desires regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervalo  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor  
Nicholas Blendy, MOGR  
Matt Stegman, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

---

Caylin Young, President's Legislative Director  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor