



CITY COUNCIL BILL 12-0063

TO: Members of the Health Committee

DATE: May 10, 2012

FROM: Caroline A. Griffin, Chair – Mayor’s Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission

RE: **City Council Bill 12-0063 – Mayor’s Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission - Modifications**

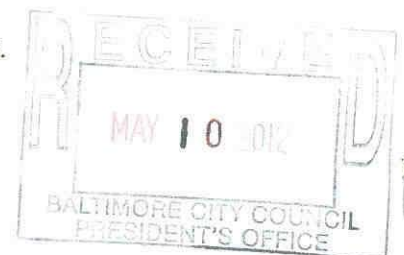
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairman Curran, Vice-Chair Spector, and Members of the Health Committee, please be advised that the Mayor’s Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission (“Commission”) supports enactment of **Council Bill 12-0063**, with minor changes.

On October 27, 2010, Mayor Rawlings-Blake enacted legislation that created the Commission -- the first of its kind in the country -- to help combat animal cruelty and dogfighting cases in Baltimore. The original Commission legislation provided for 33 members, including 1 member from each of the then-existing 14 City Council districts. Many of City Council appointees have participated marginally in the affairs of the Commission, while others have not participated at all. Moreover, the large size of the group has hampered the efficiency of the Commission. Some of these public members would be better suited to serve on an outreach subcommittee, rather than on the Commission itself. On the other hand, the Commission would be better served by having representatives from the following agencies: the Department of Social Services, the Housing Department, and the Baltimore City Public School System.

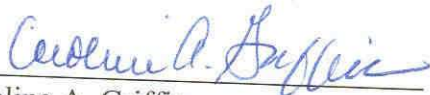
The Governance Committee of the Commission recommends the following minor revisions to the legislation as currently drafted.

1. **Page 1, line 18** - The Advisory Commission should consist of 25 members.
2. **Page 1, line 20** - 15 members should be appointed by the Mayor.
3. **Page 2, line 3** – 15 members should be appointed by the Mayor.
4. **Page 2, line 15** – There should be 4 at-large members.



5. **Page 2, line 16** – There should be 4 at-large members nominated by the President of the City Council.
6. **Page 2, line 20** – The Health Commissioner should be represented on the Commission.
7. **Page 3, line 15** – The following paragraph should be added: “The Commission may create committees. Initially, the committees shall include Governance, Animal Control, Legislation and Education/Outreach. The Chair, with the consent of the Commission, may create such standing and *ad hoc* committees as deemed advisable, and may dismantle same at its pleasure. The Chair shall appoint the chairpersons of the various committees. With the exception of the Governance Committee, non-Commission members may participate in committees of the Commission.”

Respectfully submitted,



Caroline A. Griffin
Chair, Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse
Advisory Commission



Date