



June 23, 2015

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

Re: City Council Bill 15-0236R- No Residential Water Shut-Offs Until Delinquent
Commercial Accounts are Addressed

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0236R for form and legal sufficiency. This resolution is for the purpose of calling on the Department of Public Works to halt water shut-off efforts directed against residential accounts owing hundreds of dollars each until it has collected from, or shut-off water to, the commercial accounts that owe the City millions in unpaid water bills.

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 15-0200R is an appropriate resolution to express the Council’s concerns about this particular situation and request information from City agencies.

The Law Department approves Council Bill 15-236R for form and legal sufficiency as consistent with the City Council’s authority to express its views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Elena R. DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

cc: Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison, Mayor’s Office
George Nilson, City Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalo, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor

