

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,
Mayor



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

June 15, 2018

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 18-0261 - Charter Amendment - Commission Recommendations
for Comptroller Article

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has been asked to review City Council Bill 18-0261 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill amends the City Charter and clarifies the process for disposing of City property; simplifies language related to the allowed uses of proceeds from the sale of City property; removes carrying out the industrial and economic development powers vested in the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by the provisions of subsection (15A) of Article II as an approved use for the proceeds from the sale of City property; requires the Comptroller to appoint a Deputy City Auditor who would serve as acting City Auditor under certain specified circumstances; clarifies the City Auditor's responsibility to report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse to the Inspector General under certain circumstances; requires the City Auditor to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the powers, functions, and duties of the Department of Audits; changes the scheduling of required biennial audits of certain principal City agencies; removes the Baltimore Development Corporation from the list of principal City agencies required to be audited every 2 years to take into account the Baltimore Development Corporation's separate auditing requirements; clarifying and conforming related provisions; setting a special effective date; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The substance of the bill presents no legal impediments.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as City Council Bill 18--261, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Sincerely,



Victor K. Tervala
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor