



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

October 19, 2011

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No.11-0766-Animal Control and Protection-
Reconstitution

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No.11-0766-Animal Control and Protection-Reconstitution and supports its passage with the proposed amendment. This legislation seeks to reconstitute the laws governing animals and their control and protection. Among its proposals the legislation establishes standards for the general care and control of animals, establishes standards for the protection of animals from cruelty, abuse and other inappropriate conduct, and creates an Animal Hearing Board with broadened jurisdiction.

Several years ago Baltimore created the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Task Force and charged them with making recommendations around eradicating animal abuse, increasing awareness of laws, and developing legislation to protect animals and prosecute abusers. Among the recommendations was the formation of Mayor's Anti-Abuse Advisory Commission to ensure that the works of the Task Force continue beyond its one-year term and also that it also expand in its composition. The establishment of the Commission and the proposed reconstitution of the laws governing animals and their control and protection contained within this legislation work towards this end.

The BPD currently assigns the responsibilities for investigations of animal abuse and cruelty to the BPD's Chief of Patrol Division. Accordingly, the BPD requests that §10-110(F)(2) be amended to read:

In addition, the Health Commissioner may refer the matter for further criminal investigation to the police officer in the Chief of Patrol's Office who has been designated by the Police Commissioner as the BPD's Animal Cruelty Liaison to the Office.

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The BPD stands willing to continue to assist in the City's collective efforts in this area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison