
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



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

June 4, 2024

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Mayor and City Council Bill 24-0534 – Bond Issue – Affordable Housing Loan –
\$20,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0534 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would authorize the Mayor and City Council to create a debt not exceeding \$20,000,000 (the “Debt”) for the public purposes that are outlined in the House Resolution I and Senate Resolution I of the General Assembly’s 2024 Legislative Session. The bill also contains provisions concerning the use of the funds, the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters.

Section 7 of Article XI of the Constitution of Maryland prevents the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from creating general obligation debt that is secured by the full faith and credit of the City without having the proposal first be “(1) presented to and approved by a majority of the members of the General Assembly representing Baltimore City no later than the 30th day of the regular session of the General Assembly immediately preceding its submission to the voters, or (2) authorized by an act of the General Assembly.” The aforementioned General Assembly Resolutions of 2024 have satisfied this requirement. The Maryland Constitution also requires that this bill “provide for the discharge of any such debt or credit within the period of 40 years from the time of contracting the same,” which it does.

Additionally, the Maryland Constitution requires that after enactment, this ordinance be “submitted to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, at such time and place as may be fixed by the ordinance, and approved by a majority of the votes cast at that time and place.” Md. Const., Art. XI, § 7. This bill provides for this requirement in Section 6. The Law Department approves Council Bill 24-0534 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor