
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
DANA P. MOORE, ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

March 3, 2020

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 20-0504 – Charter Amendment – City Council – Composition

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0504 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill increases the size of the City Council to 15 members elected from districts and requires that the City Council President be elected by the City Council from among its members every 2 years. The bill clarifies the terms and the manner of election for the Council Vice President and the Council representative to the Planning Commission and allows for the City Council to remove a member from the position of President. It also specifies that the City Council elect an individual to fulfill a mayoral vacancy. The bill submits 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 this City Council Bill, 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. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Dana Moore, Deputy Solicitor
Matt Stegman, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Caylin Young, President's Legislative Director
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor