



September 5, 2013

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

Re: City Council Bill 13-0116R – In Support of a Federal Indictment of
George Zimmerman

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0027R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill supports the efforts of the United States Justice Department to determine if the killing of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman constituted a violation of Federally guaranteed civil rights. The bill urges the Department to swiftly move for an indictment of Zimmerman on Federal civil rights charges if its investigation finds such charges to be warranted.

Resolutions such as the one embodied in Council Bill 13-0116R are “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*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988) (quoting *McQuillin Mun. Corp.* § 15:2 (3rd Ed.)). As such, the bill is an appropriate expression of the Council’s resolve to request a determination whether a civil rights violation has occurred and, if it has, that proper action be taken.

The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Victor K. Tervalo
Assistant Solicitor



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cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Special Assistant Solicitor