

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor
101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 19, 2011

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

Attn: Karen Randle
Executive Secretary

Re: City Council Bill No. 11-0634 – Charter Amendment – City Council –
Age Requirement

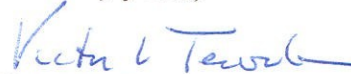
Dear President and City Council Members:

You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 11-0634. City Council Bill 11-0634 is a proposed charter amendment that would lower the minimum age requirement for members of the City Council. The Charter currently requires members to be above the age of 21, registered voters of the City, and residents of the districts they have been chosen to represent. The proposed amendment would lower the minimum age requirement from 21 to 18.

Article XI, Sec. 2 of the Maryland Constitution provides for the qualifications of the City Council. Article XI-A, Sec. 6 of the Maryland Constitution transfers to the voters of the City the power to make changes to Sections 1 through 6 of Article XI by the adoption or amendment of a charter. Pursuant to this authority, the Baltimore City Charter may be amended to lower the age requirement for members of the City Council.

Article XI-A, Sec. 5 of the Maryland Constitution provides that an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter may be proposed by a resolution of the Mayor and City Council. Accordingly, City Council Bill 11-0634 is consistent with the authority of the City Council to initiate a Charter amendment. The Law Department, therefore, approves the City Council Bill 11-0634 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,


Victor K. Tervala
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
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor