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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
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June 9, 2026

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

Re: City Council Bill 26-0201 – Charter Amendment – Parking Benefits District – Local Fund

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0201 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill—entitled a resolution—would amend Article 1 of the Charter to establish a nonlapsing fund to be used for specific purposes in communities surrounding the area of parking revenue collection.

Under Section 5 of Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as this one, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. If enacted, the resolution would be placed on the ballot at the City’s next general election and, if approved by the voters, the amendment would be adopted and become part of the Charter 30 days after the election. Md. Const., Art. XI-A, § 5.

There are a number of problems with the first reader version of the bill, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The bill does not provide for sources of funding;
- Proposed Section 21(b)(2) provides that a parking benefits district shall have designated boundaries in which “parking revenues may be *collected*.” This appears to be erroneous and is instead likely meant to cover areas where funds may be *expended*.
- It is unclear what “supplemental maintenance services” means in proposed Section 21(d)(1)(v).

Given the expedited timeline surrounding the bill’s introduction and consideration, the Law Department worked directly with the sponsor on substantial amendments to address these and other concerns. Assuming these amendments are adopted, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Hochstetler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Hochstetler  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor  
Nina Themlis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor  
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor  
Desireé Luckey, Assistant Solicitor