

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

October 17, 2008

The Honorable President and
Members of the Baltimore
City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 08-0213 – Vacant Lot Registration - Exceptions

Dear President and Members

You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 08-0213. Bill 213 would amend the City's law regarding the annual registration of vacant lots to include certain exceptions for the following: 1) vacant lots that adjoin a non-vacant lot titled to the same owner, 2) vacant lots that contain a parking pad actively used by a nearby property owner, or 3) vacant lots that extend into Baltimore County.

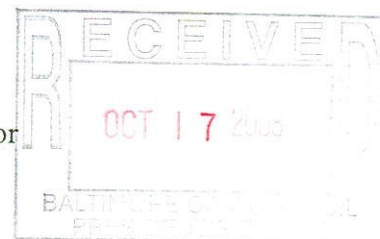
City Council Bill 08-0213 is designed to lessen the community's criticism of the registration requirement by creating these exceptions without eliminating the requirement entirely, which is necessary to provide the Department of Housing with owner's contact information should a problem arise on the lot.

City Council Bill 08-0213 is consistent with the authority of the City Council. While the bill is legally sufficient, consideration should be given to any fiscal impact it will have, since creating exceptions for these lots will result in a reduction of revenue (generated by the registration fees) and may affect the City's ability to administer the registration program.

The Law Department, therefore, approves the City Council Bill 08-0213 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

Ashlea Brown
Special Assistant Solicitor



cc: Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison
George A. Nilson, City Solicitor
Linda C. Barclay, Chief Solicitor
Elena R. DiPietro, Senior Solicitor
Deepa Bhattacharyya, Assistant Solicitor
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