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CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR  
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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February 9, 2018

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 17-0005- Charter Amendment – Term Limits

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has been asked to review City Council Bill 17-0005 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill amends the City Charter and provided that a person who has served a certain number of terms as Mayor, Comptroller, President of the City Council, or Member of the City Council is ineligible to again serve in that office during the immediately following term; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The substance of the bill presents no legal impediments. We would, however, want the committee to be aware of how the Law Department would interpret the bill's language: that is, if an elected official has served two consecutive terms prior to December 2020, upon completing a third consecutive term in 2024, this bill would prohibit the person from standing for re-election in 2024.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as City Council Bill 17-0005, 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  
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor