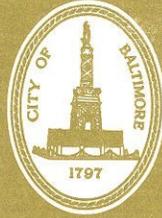


CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

May 13, 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. 11-0278R - Resolution—Investigative Hearing—
Payment of Lead Paint Judgments

Dear President and City Council Members:

You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 11-0278R. City Council Bill 278R is for the purpose of requesting that the Commissioner of Housing report to the City Council on the status of cases of lead paint poisoning among former residents of the housing controlled by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, requesting that the City Solicitor discuss the decision not to pay court judgments awarded to victims of lead paint poisoning in HABC housing and requesting the Director of Finance to discuss sources of funding to compensate victims of lead paint poisoning in Housing Authority residences.

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) is not an agency of the Mayor and City Council. HABC is a federally-funded Public Housing Agency under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides public housing programs and related services. It has staff and legal counsel that are separate from the City of Baltimore. The Baltimore City Law Department does not represent HABC and does not hire or supervise its legal counsel or any outside counsel that may be retained to represent HABC. The Law Department, therefore, had no involvement in the in the legal defense of lead paint cases against HABC or decisions related to those cases.

Jan Goslee is currently serving as Legal Counsel for HABC. She is the person in the best position to respond to the City Council's questions regarding the litigation of lead paint cases and related issues. The Law Department and the City Solicitor have no knowledge of these matters

Comments

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and would not be able to provide answers to the Council's concerns.

Accordingly, the Law Department respectfully requests that legal counsel for HABC be asked to appear instead of the City Solicitor to respond to the City Council's concerns on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Elena R. DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Belinda Conaway
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office
George A. Nilson, City Solicitor
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Victor Tervalo