

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

August 15, 2012

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

Re: City Council Bill 12-0115 – Fire Suppression and Prevention – Closings

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0115 for form and legal sufficiency. This bill proposes several changes to Subtitle 2 of Article 9 of the City Code concerning the Comprehensive Fire Protection Plan (“Plan”). The bill would require that the plan be drafted by the Chief of the Fire Department (“Chief”) instead of the Board of Fire Commissioners (“Board”). The bill provides additional contents of the Plan and a hearing and notice requirement before the closure, consolidation or relocation of any fire suppression company or unit.

The requirement that the Chief draft the Plan instead of the Board is consistent with the language in the City Charter that the Board have only those duties prescribed by the Charter. Charter, Art. VII, § 49. To further conform to this requirement, the reference to the Board in lines 3 and 4 on page 3 should be deleted.

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,


Hilary Ruley
Assistant Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Special Assistant Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Assistant Solicitor



Faw/Amerel