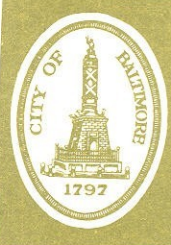


Andrew Klein

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410 396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #11-0766 – Animal Control and Protection

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO
The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

DATE: October 24, 2011

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council Bill #11-0766 has been introduced for the purpose of reconstituting the laws governing animals and their control and protection; prohibiting certain conduct; requiring licenses or permits for certain animals; providing for the licensing and regulation of certain animal facilities; prohibiting the keeping of certain animals; establishing standards for the general care and control of animals; establishing standards for the protection of animals from cruelty, abuse, and other inappropriate conduct; providing for the treatment of animals at large, dangerous animals, and vicious dogs; providing for the administration of complaints; providing for the appointment of animal control officers and for the enforcement of these laws by police officers, animal control officers, humane officers, and other authorized persons; abolishing the Vicious Dog Hearing Board and substituting for it a new Animal Hearing Board with broadened jurisdiction; authorizing the adoption of rules and regulations to supplement the law; defining certain terms; changing the name of the Bureau of Animal Control to Office of Animal Control; imposing certain civil and criminal penalties; conforming certain related provisions; and generally relating to the control and protection of animals.

The Department of Finance would like to provide comment on several items within the proposed bill 11-0766.

§10-106 (B) of the proposed bill would allow the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department, with approval of the Board of Estimates and the Director of Finance, to retain a percentage of revenues from license, permit, and other fees to fund Animal Control and Protection programs within the City of Baltimore ("City"). The Department of Finance recommends that this section of the bill be reworded to state the following: "With the approval of the Director of Finance, the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department may seek authority from the Board of Estimates to retain a percentage of revenues from license, permit and other fees to fund Animal Control and Protection programs within the City". This wording is consistent with current protocol.

§10-1001 of the proposed bill establishes an Animal Hearing Board in place of the Vicious Dog Hearing Board, and §10-1002 (D) allows for compensation of appointed Animal Hearing Board members as provided for in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance would support volunteer service to the board, and oppose an action that results in additional unfunded costs to the City.

Based on the above findings, the Department of Finance requests that Council Bill 11-0766 be amended to include the revision to §10-106 (B), and that the Animal Hearing Board be constituted as a volunteer body.

cc: Edward J. Gallagher
Angela Gibson

Stamp: OCT 24 2011

F/A