

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

May 13, 2010

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 10-0481 – Charter Amendment – Redistricting Plan

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0481 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill proposes to amend section 7(b) of the City Charter to change the due date of the Mayor's redistricting plan. Currently the plan is due by February 1 in the year following the census. This poses a problem because the United States Census Bureau does not make census data available to local governments until after that date. In a telephone call with the regional representative of the United States Census Bureau, the Law Department ascertained that the data would be made available to the City in March of the year following the census. Thus, this bill changes the due date for the Mayor's redistricting plan to sixty days following the receipt of the census data. This avoids the Mayor having to create a redistricting plan based on unofficial census data and then revise her redistricting plan to reflect actual numbers once they become available.

Since the bill is consistent with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, which provides that a Charter amendment may be proposed by the Mayor and City Council, the Law Department approves it 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
Terese Brown, Assistant Solicitor

