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June 27, 2022

Honorable President

Members of the City Council

c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

409 City Hall

Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 22-0104R – Investigative Hearing – Degree Requirements for Baltimore City Positions

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 22-0104R. The bill requests that the City Solicitor, the City Administrator, the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Human Resources, the Baltimore City Labor Commissioner, and the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development brief the City Council regarding the practice of requiring degrees from institutions of higher learning for certain City positions, and to discuss whether eliminating such a degree requirement would be detrimental or beneficial to the recruitment and retention of City employees.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards.

Council Bill 22-0104R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request the specified officials to attend to provide information on degree requirements for certain City positions and to discuss how eliminating the degree requirement would affect recruitment and retention of City employees.

The Law Department approves Council Bill 22-0104R for form and legal sufficiency as it is a valid method of inviting the City officials noted in the bill to discuss this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michele Toth

Special Solicitor

cc: Natasha Mehu

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