
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 19, 2022

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

Re: City Council Bill 22-0131R – Informational Hearing – Animal Abuse

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0131R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Health Department, the Office of Animal Control, Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to brief the City Council on the City's current resources, protections, and capabilities to address and mitigate animal abuse, as well as the role and responsibilities of the Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate "in furtherance of its legislative function." 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an informational hearing. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988).

Therefore, the Law Department approves this resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochstetler
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
D'Ereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Special Solicitor