

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

DAVID N. McCLINTOCK, Inspector General
640 City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

October 5, 2012

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street, Room 408
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
ATTN: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

Re: Bill 12-0142 {"Public Ethics Law – Conflicts of Interest"}

You have asked the Office of Inspector General for its comment on Bill 12-0142 {"Public Ethics Law – Conflicts of Interest"}.

The primary purpose of the Bill is to clarify, expand, and strengthen provisions concerning actions of recently registered lobbyists and the relationships of those having or negotiating certain contracts, commonly referred to as "blanket contracts" with the City.

The Office of Inspector General fully supports both provisions. We believe that the modifications provide clarity in both purpose and substance to issues involving gifts from recently registered lobbyists and also those seeking to pursue certain contractual relationships with the City.

Blanket contracts can be incredibly effective and efficient tools for City Administration. However, the unique nature of a contract issued by one Department and available for use by others presents relationship questions not squarely addressed under current law. The OIG believes that when considering blanket contracts we must be cognizant of the relationships between persons having or negotiating the contract and all potential City users, not just the Department initiating the Request for Proposal.

Given the increasing complexity of contracts and contract administration, the Office of Inspector General supports this provision as a positive effort to enhance oversight efforts and provide better information to City decision makers.

Very truly yours,

David N. McClintock
Inspector General

DNM/

cc: OIG Admin File

I:/city council/OIG comment-Bill 12-0142



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE@www.baltimorecity.gov