CITY OF BALTIMORE

BOARD OF ESTIMATES

Room 204, City Hall Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-396-4755



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November 6, 2013

Honorable President and Members of the City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

November 6, 2013 the Board had before it for consideration the following pending City Council Bill:

13-0236 - A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council concerning Charter Amendment - City Council - Independent Counsel for the purpose of authorizing the City Council to retain the services of independent legal counsel; providing for the qualifications and term of that counsel; specifying the duties of that counsel: providing for the counsel's compensation and expenses; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

> THE LAW DEPARTMENT PROPOSES THAT THE BILL BE AMENDED TO ADOPT A MODEL THAT RECOGNIZES THE CITY COUNCIL IS NOT A SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITY THAT CAN SUE OR BE SUED OR ENTER INTO CONTRACTS BUT THAT STILL PROVIDES THE CITY COUNCIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE CONSISTENT WITH THE DUTIES OF THAT BODY AS PROVIDED IN THE CITY CHARTER.

> IF THE BILL WAS AMENDED AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE LAW DEPARTMENT COULD APPROVE CITY COUNCIL BILL 13-0236 FOR FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY.



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After NOTING AND CONCURRING in all favorable reports received, the Board approved the aforementioned City Council Bill and referred it to the City Council with the recommendation that it be approved and passed by that Honorable Body.

The President ABSTAINED from voting.

Sincerely,

NOV 0 6 2013

Bernice H. Taylor

Clerk to the Board of Estimates