

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor

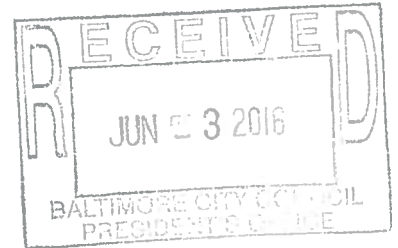


DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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

June 2, 2016

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 16-0669 – Port Covington Development District

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0669 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill proposes to create the Port Covington Development District (“the District”) and a special tax increment fund for the District. That fund would pay for or reimburse the City for debt service on special obligation bonds for the District.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes the creation of development districts and tax increment funds for those districts by Ordinance. City Charter, Art. II, §(62)(b)(10). The City can then issue bonds for the purpose of financing the development of industrial, commercial or residential areas in the District. In order to issue such bonds, however, the City must first: (1) designate by ordinance an area or areas within the City as a “development district”; and (2) provide that until the bonds have been fully paid or thereafter, a specified increment of the property taxes on real property within the development district shall be paid into a special fund and applied only to certain authorized purposes. City Charter, Art. II, §(62)(d)(1).

The Law Department notes that the bill references a Schedule I containing the project description, which was to be attached to the bill and made a part of it. That Schedule appears to be inadvertently missing from the First Reader Copy. The Law Department assumes the bill will be amended to reflect the addition of that necessary Schedule, identical to Schedule I in companion bill 16-0670, which comports with the requirements of the Charter.

Assuming City Council Bill 16-0669 is amended to include the appropriate Schedule, it will be authorized by and consistent with the Baltimore City Charter and the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours, *ecm*
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Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

Fav w/ Ann

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cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor