July 7, 2020

The Honorable President and Members

of the Baltimore City Council

Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-0545 – Charter Amendment – Term Limits

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0545 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides that a person who has served a certain number of terms as Mayor, Comptroller, President of the City Council, or Member of the City Council is ineligible to again serve in that office during the immediately following term. It also corrects, clarifies and conforms related provisions and submits this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The substance of the bill presents no legal impediments. We would, however, want the City Council to be aware of how the Law Department would interpret the bill's language: that is, if an elected official has served two consecutive terms prior to December 2020, upon completing a third consecutive term in 2024, this bill would prohibit the person from standing for re-election in 2024.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as City Council Bill 20-0545, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Sincerely,



Victor K. Tervala

Chief Solicitor

cc: Dana Moore, Acting Solicitor

Matt Stegman, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison

Caylin Young, President’s Legislative Director

Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division

Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor