June 17, 2021

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 21-0037R – Informational Hearing - Studying Options to rid Baltimore City of Vacant Properties

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0037R for form and legal sufficiency. The resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Law Department, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Health to discuss the feasibility of certain specific recommendations to more efficiently and rapidly improve the ability of Baltimore City to remedy vacant dwellings.

In general, a City Council resolution is “an expression of opinion or mind concerning some particular item of business coming within the legislative body’s official cognizance.” Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium Assoc., 545 A.2d 1296, 1303 (Md. 1988) (quoting McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 15:2 (3rd Ed.)). Council Bill 21-0037R is an appropriate resolution to discuss the means to improve Baltimore’s ability to remedy vacant dwellings.

Accordingly, the Law Department is prepared to approve Council Bill 21-0037R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervala

Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor

Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations

Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs

Matthew Stegman, Director of Fiscal and Legislative Services

Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division

Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor