October 5, 2021

The Honorable President and Members

 of the Baltimore City Council

Attn: Natawna Austin

Room 409, City Hall

100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0134- Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation – Plannin7 Department - $7,100,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0132 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides for a Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of $7,100,000 to the Baltimore City Planning Department to provide funding for food security expenses resulting from the 7 COVID-19 pandemic. The bill shall take effect on the date that it is enacted.

The City Charter establishes the criteria for making supplementary appropriations. City Charter, Art. VI, §8. Section 8(b) of Article VI of the City Charter permits such a supplementary appropriation to be made available to the appropriate municipal agency when funds become available that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates. The supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and must be approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance, which may only encompass a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” See Sec. 8(c). The bill provides that the source of revenue is funds from the funds from the Recordation Tax in excess of the amount from this source that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2021. The Board of Estimates recommended approval of this bill to the City Council on September 15, 2021.

The bill meets all the requirements of the law. Accordingly, the Law Department approves this bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Elena R. DiPietro

Chief Solicitor

Cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor

 Darnell Ingram, Deputy Solicitor

 Stephen Salsbury, Chief of Staff

 Natasha Mehu, Director MOGR

 Matthew Stegman, President’s Office

 Nikki Thompson, President’s Office

 Nina Themelis, MOGR

 Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

 Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor

 Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor

 Dereka Bolden, Assistant Solicitor

 Avery Aisenstark