
CITY OF BALTIMORE
BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

September 17, 2019

Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor
City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Settlement of Police-Involved Litigation

Dear Mayor Young:

What came through very clearly during Monday night's hearing on Bill 19-0409 is that some citizens believe they don't have sufficient opportunities to speak their truth to the powerful. As a result, we need to afford other opportunities for residents to do so.

In pursuit of one such opportunity, the Law Department recommends that, effective immediately, you recommend that approval of law settlements in police-involved litigation claims be assigned to **the non-routine agenda of the Board of Estimates**. Under the procedure we recommend, any claimants who settles their claims would be invited to address the Board (perhaps for two to five minutes, with or without their counsel present) in advance of the Board's approval of the settlement. After the settlement is approved, the claimant could meet with the media who routinely cover Board of Estimates sessions. Of course, a claimant's appearance would be entirely voluntary and certainly would not be a condition of the settlement.

We believe this innovative approach is fully consistent with your commitment to transparency and will not unduly delay or impede the efficient completion of the Board's business. It is our hope that the President and the Comptroller will see value in this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Andre M. Davis
City Solicitor