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ROLAND R. MARCHANT,
CITY SOLICITOR.

ALEXANDER PRESTON,
DEPUTY CITY SOLICITOR

FRANK DRISCOLL,
ROBERT F. LEACH, JR.,
BENJAMIN H. MCKINDLESS,
ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITORS.

Department of Cam,

Henry W. Weeks, Clerk Court House Baltimore, Md. EDWARD J. COLGAN, JR.

GENERAL ASSISTANT
GEORGE ARNOLD FRICK,
R. CONTEE ROSE,

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NO ...

October 9th, 1919.

Chief Judge, Court of Appeals,

Annapolis, Md.

Dear Judge Boyd:-

the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and the Board of Supervisors of Election from placing upon the ballets to be used in the ensuing election, certain amendments to the City Charter.

The first of these amendments proposes to exempt from taxation merchandise held for sale and to partially reduce tax on improvements to real estate.

The second amendment proposes in effect to give to the Appeal Tax Court the right to tax at full City rates all of the property in the old annex, that is, the property that became part of the City by virtue of the Act of 1888.

the request for injunctions in these cases has been denied by Judge Gorter and under Article . Section 31 of the Code, counsel proposes to present the questions involved to the Court of Appeals for determination. It is highly important to the interest of the taxpayers of the City and the City Government that these questions should be determined at the earliest possible date. This is true because of their importance to the parties to the suits, and because of the fact that the

settlement of the controversy might have some bearing upon the budget for 1920 now in course of preparation. The controversy deals only with the construction of the recent Home Rule amendment to the Constitution codified as Article 11-4.

October 21st as an appropriate date for the hearing. An appreciably later date would not give time for a decision before the printing of the ballots, and a much earlier date would scarcely give adequate time for the preparation of the briefs.

Very respectfully,

City Solicyter.

Joseph C. France

Counsel for complainants.

R.R.M.