

File No. 8590 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Baltimore, August 14th, 1908.

My dear Mr. Bruce:-

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Enclosed find tabulated information in connection with the Constable situation which we are endeavoring to reduce to some positive and legal basis. It is our present effort to establish what men are properly qualified to act.

Under the caption "Qualified" is given the date upon which the last qualification was made in each respective ward. This information has been secured from the Clerk of the Superior Court.

The final column gives the ordinances under which the parties, thus qualifying, received their respective appointments.

There are several legal questions for settlement, which necessarily have to go up to your department for an opinion. They are as follows:

(1) Since the term of a constable is for two years, when does said term begin and when does it end?

(2) Has there been any regular sequence of two-year terms by which it can be determined, now, when the whole list, theoretically, should be appointed anew. That is to say, since the last general appointments were made under Ordinance No. 19, approved November 8th, 1905, what two years were those appointments supposed to cover and when did the said two-year term expire?

(3) If a person qualifies under one ordinance and is appointed again under a subsequent ordinance, is it necessary for him to qualify anew under the later ordinance? If he fails so to qualify under the later ordinance, but continues to act under the qualifications of the former ordinance, what is the effect?

(4) Suppose, as in the cases of the Eleventh and the Seventeenth Wards, two constables properly qualify under the general ordinance, No. 19, of November 8th, 1905. Suppose in 1908 a third man, as instanced by Alfred M. Medinger and Paca M. Cover, is appointed by ordinance, as shown on the report. Suppose these two 1908 appointees qualify; but suppose the late, or 1908, ordinances, simply name each of the said appointees as constables in his respective ward without designating which of the two preceding properly qualified appointees is to