

FILE NO. 105071

January 10, 1962

To the Honorable, the President
and Members of the City Council
City Hall
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Attention: Committee on Recreation and Parks

Re: Proposed Ordinance No. 1408

Gentlemen:

On October 24, 1961, your Committee referred to this office proposed Ordinance No. 1408, introduced on May 22, 1961, in the City Council of Baltimore, which ordinance amends Section 75 of Article 24 of the Baltimore City Code (1950 Edition) by changing the starting time for motion pictures on Sunday, from 2 o'clock p.m. to 1 o'clock p.m., and allowing motion picture theatres to stay open until 1 o'clock a.m. on Sunday morning.

You have requested that this office advise you whether the procedure adopted to amend this ordinance is correct, and, further, whether the ordinance itself would be valid, if ordained.

In determining whether or not the ordinance itself would be valid it was necessary that further information be procured from the Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Maryland, Inc., the organization most interested in promoting this ordinance. They have stated that their reasons for changing the present ordinance are as follows:

1. That the present law provides that, although they may open their theatres at 12 noon on Sunday, they may not begin showing motion pictures until 2 o'clock p.m. The normal starting time for motion pictures is 1 o'clock p.m., and in order to carry on the regular schedule of pictures and short subjects on Sunday requires the motion picture theatres to stay open one hour later.

2. That the one hour additional time which the movies must stay open on Sunday results in a substantial cost