

August 25, 1966

MEMORANDUM TO: Joseph Allen, Esquire
City Solicitor

FROM: Solomon Baylor
Assistant City Solicitor

SUBJECT: Use of Prisoners and Welfare Workers
for City work - whether covered by
Workmen's Compensation - reimbursement
of costs by State
File No: 112907

It is understood that Mr. George Warren, the City Purchasing Agent, desires to use prisoners from the Baltimore City Jail and the recipients of public welfare payments to perform manual labor in connection with the consolidation and elimination of certain warehouses used by the Bureau of Purchases. The question has now been raised as to whether or not the City has the legal responsibility of providing coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Law for injuries which may be sustained by such persons while working as aforesaid. The conclusions reached herein are not limited to those persons performing services for the Purchasing Agent but include all City departments which might make use of prisoners and welfare recipients. For purposes of clarity, I shall first discuss the law pertaining to welfare workers, and then the law relative to prisoners from the Baltimore City Jail.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS

The Bureau of Purchases obtains workers who are receiving welfare payments from the Department of Public Welfare through the "Works Project Program" of said Department. This program was commenced by the Department in 1961, and under it persons who are regular recipients of public welfare are assigned to perform services in a designated City department, when and if such services are needed. These persons are not required to work any specific number of hours, and sometimes are not called upon to work at