

Honorable C. Lyman Schueler, Chairman, Rules Committee, City Council (cont'd)

powers and authorities of Department Heads. In view of this power of the Council, it appears proper for a Department Head to be questioned and to respond thereto on all matters pertaining to the exercise of his powers as a Department Head. All departments are operated for and on behalf of the public and it is fitting that the public at all times be entitled to full advices as to all matters connected therewith.

I also believe it pertinent to call to your attention Section 28 of the City Charter, which advises:

"* * * * The Council, by resolution, may authorize any standing or special committee to administer oaths and to summon witnesses as to any matters relevant to its investigation of any municipal agency."

This clearly indicates that the Charter confers upon Committees of the City Council the power to investigate any municipal agency, and a Committee when authorized by proper resolution may summon witnesses, including Department Heads.

Trusting this answers your inquiry, I am

Very truly yours,

/s/ THOMAS N. BIDDISON

City Solicitor

TNB/rrs

File No. 92501

May 6, 1954

The Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Estimates
City Hall
Baltimore - 2, Maryland

Gentlemen:

We have your letter of April 29, 1954, wherein you refer to this office the Group No. 2 Total Bid of Mayer Brothers for furnishing and delivering concrete vaults to the Bureau of Water Supply. With this letter you enclosed a copy of a letter from Mr. J. S. Strohmeier, Water Engineer, to your Board setting forth the bids that were received for the furnishing and delivering of said concrete vaults. In this letter to your Board, Mr. Strohmeier sets forth the group total bid of Mayer Brothers for