City Commissioner's Office
Baltimore, May 5, 1858

To the President and Members
of the Second Branch City Council

Gentlemen —
In answer to your resolution of enquiry requesting me to ascertain and report "the difference of cost and relative durability of leather and gutta percha hose," I beg to say that the cost of leather hose of the best quality (2½ inches internal diameter) is 60 cents per foot. I am unable to speak positively as to their relative durability, but have no hesitancy in saying that I consider the leather hose the most durable and lasting, and accordingly better adapted for city purposes than the gutta percha.

Respectfully submitted,
H. J. Bayly, City Commissioner.

P.S. — The above opinion is sustained by a number of active firemen with whom I have conversed.

A report from the joint standing committee on highways with a resolution granting permission to Marcus Wolfe to construct a verandah, was received from the First and read.

On motion of Mr Sullivan, the resolution was read a second time, by special order, and concurred in.

A report from the joint standing committee on highways with a resolution relative to placing of seats in Union square, was received from the First Branch and read.

On motion of Mr Sullivan, the resolution was read a second time, by special order, and concurred in.

The First Branch returned ordinances Nos. 45, 46, and 47 of the series ordinances, endorsed "passed."

The First Branch returned ordinance No. 49 of the series ordinances, endorsed "will pass with proposed amendments."

Amendments proposed.

1. In section 1, in line two, strike out the word "two" and insert in lieu thereof the word "three"; strike out the word "one" in line fourteen, and insert in lieu thereof the word "two"; strike out the word "keepers," in line fifteen, and insert in lieu thereof the word "keepers"

2. In section 9, strike out the words "three fourths," in the fifth line; the words "and a half," in the seventh line; the words "and a half," in the eight line; the words "and a quarter," in the ninth, tenth and eleventh lines; the words "and a quarter," in the fifteenth and sixteenth lines; and the words "and a half," in the seventeenth line.

3. Add to the end of section twelve, the words: "and the Mayor shall divide the city into two districts, to be called the eastern and western districts."

On motion of Mr. Herring, the proposed amendments were concurred in.

The First Branch returned ordinance No. 64 of the series ordinances, endorsed "will pass with proposed amendment".

Amendment proposed:

In section two, line three, strike out the word "seventy-two" and insert the word "sixty".

On motion of Mr Herring, the proposed amendment was non-concurred in.

Mr. Herring called up the ordinance entitled "An ordinance for the general valuation and assessment of property in the city of Baltimore."

Mr. Keik moved to amend the twenty-second section by striking out the word "May" in the fifth line, and inserting the word "June", which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr Keik moved to further amend the twenty-second section by striking out the word "September" in the eight line, and inserting the word "October", which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr Keik moved to further amend the twenty-second section by inserting after the word "next", the words "or as soon thereafter as the assessors shall have made their return", which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Keik moved to amend the twenty-fifth section by striking out the word "October" in the fourth line, and inserting the word "November", which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Keik moved to further amend the twenty fifth section, by inserting after the word "notice" in the twenty-ninth line, the words "in all daily papers," which