

to the Council for the administration of the affairs of the City; to see that the ordinances of the City and the laws of the State and of Montgomery or Prince George's County are enforced within the corporate limits of the City; to make to the Council such recommendations concerning the affairs of the City as may seem to him desirable; to keep the Council advised as to the financial condition of the City and its future needs; to prepare and submit to the Council such reports as may be required by that body; to supervise all administrative officers of the City other than the Corporation Counsel; and to perform such other duties as are prescribed by this charter or as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the Council not inconsistent with this charter.

2. (Purchases and Contracts.) It shall be the duty of the City Manager to control the purchase, storage and distribution of all supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services required by the City; to establish and enforce standard specifications with respect to such supplies, materials and equipment, and to ascertain their quality, quantity and conformance to specifications; and to transfer to or between City offices or departments or with the approval of the Council to rent or sell surplus, obsolete or unused supplies, materials and equipment. Before making any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services, opportunity shall be given for competition, under such rules and regulations, and with such exceptions, as the Council may by ordinance prescribe. Every contract involving a total expenditure by the City of ~~\$2,500.00~~ \$1,500.00 or more shall be approved by the Council; ANY CONTRACT ENTERED INTO IN VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION SHALL BE NULL AND VOID, UNLESS LATER EXPRESSLY RATIFIED BY THE COUNCIL.

3. (Departments and Offices.) The administrative branches of the City government shall include the departments of finance, police, fire, and public works, and the office of the Corporation OFFICES OF THE CITY CLERK AND CORPORATION Counsel, except that the Council may by ordinance (a) combine any of the above; (b) create such additional departments or offices as may be needed; (c) provide that the City Manager shall without additional pay perform the functions imposed on the head of any one or more of the various departments or offices; or (d) amend or repeal any ordinance adopted under the authority herein granted. The Council shall not have power to discontinue any function or duty assigned by this charter to any department or office, or to assign any such function or duty to any other department or office except as provided in clause (a) of this paragraph. The City Manager shall be re-