

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WILLIAM VONDRASEK, Acting Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-6132

June 12, 2017

Honorable President Bernard Young
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 17-0024R**
Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces

Dear President Young:

Council Bill #17-0024R proposes the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP), the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research report on the total number of service calls re: upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and recommend to the Administration a single City agency assuming responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces.

The Department has reviewed this piece of proposed legislation and objects to its intent.

The mission of Baltimore's Recreation and Parks Department is to improve the health and wellness of Baltimore through quality recreational programs, preserving our parks and natural resources, and promoting fun, active lifestyles for all ages. Preservation and beautification of the many parks in BCRP's inventory is a high priority which we've achieved with recognizable results. Shifting our focus, and resources, to maintaining vacant lots will create inefficiencies within our current operation and does not support the Department's mission. Conversely, we do not believe it is in the city's best interest to place responsibility for mowing our parks with another agency.

Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks is not in favor of Council Bill #17-0024R.

Respectfully yours,

William Vondrasek
Acting Director

WV:ch

Cc: Kyrn Banks, Liaison to City Council