



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

October 31, 2012

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, ^{JHG} Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill 12-0154-Code Enforcement Officers

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed and supports City Council Bill 12-0154-Code Enforcement Officers. The bill proposes to create the position of "Code Enforcement Officer" and would also specifically authorize a police officer to issue environmental citations.

Currently, the BPD is responsible for the appointment of Special Enforcement Officers Article 19 § 71-1(a) who have the authority to issue both citations for violations before the District Court of Maryland and/or environmental citations before the Environmental Control Board (ECB). The creation of "Code Enforcement Officers" would expand the authority to persons authorized to issue environmental citations. The Administrative Manual charges the agency "appointing officer" and the Department of Human Resources with the background investigative responsibilities. It remains very important that the City maintain stringent guidelines for the hiring of these employees who will be issuing violations and appearing before the ECB. Additionally, the BPD would find it advantageous in certain instances to authorize specially trained officers to issue environmental violations and would also save duplicative City resources.

For the reasons discussed in the Department of Law's October 25, 2012 letter, the BPD joins the recommendation that the bill be amended to allow a Special Enforcement Officer appointed under Article 19 § 71-1(a) to retain the authority to issue environmental citations. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211

