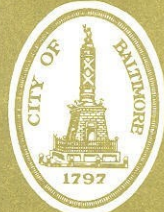


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Theodore Atwood, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 10-0485		

TO

DATE: September 29, 2011

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 10-0485 introduced by Council Members Cole, D'Adamo, Holton, Henry, Council President Young, Council Members Conaway, Welch, Middleton, Spector, Curran, and Kraft.

The purpose of the Bill is to permit temporary storage units to be placed on City property under limited conditions; define certain terms; create a permit process for temporary storage units; regulate the exterior appearance of temporary storage units; require that owners of temporary storage units inform renters about this subtitle; provide certain penalties; and generally relating to temporary storage units.

City Council Bill 10-0485 would add to Article 31 of the Baltimore City Code a requirement that a temporary storage unit may not be placed on City property without a permit issued by the Director of Transportation or his or her designee. The Director may adopt rules and regulations to implement this new subtitle. The permit application must at a minimum include specific contact information, the property location that the storage unit is to be used for, and the dates when the storage unit will be in the public way. The unit must be placed within 100 feet of the designated property and may not remain at one location for more than 10 consecutive days. The unit may not be placed within 40 feet of an intersection, where vehicular or pedestrian sight lines would be negatively impacted, or where parking is prohibited during any portion of the time the unit is present. The Director may waive specific parking regulations as part of the permit application process. A copy of the applicant's permit with the applicant's phone number must be posted on the unit at all times. The storage unit vendor must clearly mark their units with the name, number and operating address of the entity owning the unit. The units must have reflectors on the side of the unit closest to the road and on any side that faces approaching traffic. A temporary storage unit fee of \$50 for up to five days and \$150 for up to 10 days, for storage units up to 16 feet in length, would be assessed, and these fees would double for units greater than 16 feet in length. Violations of this subtitle or the rules and regulations governing temporary storage unit permits may result in a fine of \$200 for each offense. Citing of violations may be issued through environmental or civil citations.

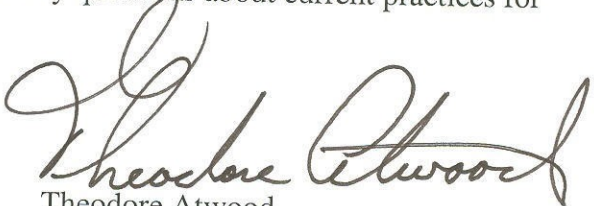


Comment

The Department of General Services, through its Right-of-Way Services Division, currently issues Temporary Use of Right-of-Way permits for temporary storage units placed in the public way. There are a limited number of companies that provide storage units in Baltimore, and companies that have registered with General Services fax locations of these temporary units to the Division office. The company name must be on the unit along with a contact number. The temporary storage units are used by residents who may be moving, having work performed within the home, have suffered fire or water damage, or who may be subject to eviction. A 10 day maximum for a storage unit permit may be problematic for some of these listed uses.

The City currently assesses a charge of \$65 per week, for a maximum of two consecutive weeks, for these permits. A request for longer than two weeks must be accompanied by a justification for the extended period. A unit in place for three days or less is charged \$25 for the permit. If meters must be bagged to accommodate a storage unit, a charge of \$15 per meter per day is also charged. Temporary units are not allowed to be placed in no parking or certain other restricted parking areas. Restricting placement of the storage units within 100 feet of the residence as proposed in this legislation may be a difficult provision with which to comply. In addition, posting a copy of the permit on the storage unit will connect the unit with an address, and companies that supply these units have said they have noticed a trend in the frequency of break-ins where addresses are part of the identification of the units. Violations of these permits may result in a fine of \$100 per day for a first offense, and \$500 per day for any subsequent offenses.

The Department of General Services finds City Council Bill 10-0485 to be duplicative of permits already issued under a separate section of the Code. However, the Department will be present at the hearing on this legislation to answer any questions about current practices for these temporary uses of the rights-of-way.



Theodore Atwood
Director

TA/MMC:pat