


FROM	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527			
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 15-0200R			

TO

The Honorable President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin  
Room 400 City Hall

February 23, 2015

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 15-0200R, Investigative Hearing - Valet Parking Program, for calling on representatives from the Departments of Finance and Transportation, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City, the BMZA, and the Baltimore City Police Department to appear before the Council to report on the implementation of the valet parking program created by ordinance in 2013, as well as revenue generated thus far as a result of this law, including but not limited to, application fees, licensing fees, and citations issued for businesses that are not in compliance.

DOT supports this resolution for a hearing.

The Parking Authority of Baltimore City (PABC) has worked hard to address valet parking issues since at least 2005, when it started researching valet operation regulation in other jurisdictions. PABC introduced City Council Bill 07-0803 in 2007 to address some of the concerns, but the bill did not pass. It was reintroduced as City Council Bill 08-0193 in 2008, but again did not reach enactment. Finally, in 2012, working with Councilmembers Cole and Kraft, PABC successfully championed City Council Bill 12-0081, Valet Parking, which was enacted in late 2013.

City Council Bill 12-0081 creates a structure for implementing a valet parking program. In part, it authorizes the creation and enforcement of valet parking zones; requires valet operators to obtain operators' licenses from PABC before operating valet parking services, and establishes requirements for obtaining such these licenses; requires restaurants and other hosts to obtain a permit from PABC prior to using the public right-of-way for valet parking, and establishes requirements for obtaining such permits; requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to hold hearings to consider valet parking permit issuance when 10 or more neighbors submit written objections; and allows DOT to approve or disapprove permit applications. The bill enables enforcement by environmental citation of a number of violations, including parking valet vehicles in the public right-of-way, and dropping off and picking up vehicles outside of a valet parking zone.

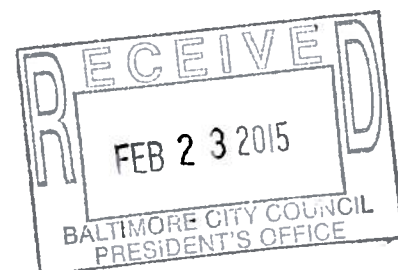
PABC has implemented this program swiftly and impressively, setting up and implementing the full program in about one year. DOT's involvement mainly centers around ensuring that valet parking plans and valet parking zones ensure the safe flow of traffic, holding hearings to review permit issuance concerns, and enforcing traffic and parking laws. We have held approximately twelve hearings to review applications for valet parking permits, and have reviewed several more applications over the course of the last year. DOT enjoys partnering with PABC on this initiative in this fashion, and looks forward to discussing its role at the hearing.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



William M. Johnson  
Director



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