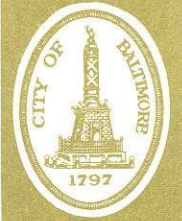


Andrew Klein

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of Budget and Management Research City Hall, 469, 410-396-4941
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 12-0058R City Agency Adoption of Recreation Centers

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE: August 31, 2012

Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
C/O Karen Randle
Room 409, City Hall

City Council Bill 12-0058R requests that the Director of Recreation and Parks, the Housing Commissioner, the Director of Transportation, the Police Commissioner, the Director of Public Works, the Director of General Services, and the Director of Finance appear before the City Council to discuss the status of the City's recreation centers and the feasibility of creating interagency partnerships to allow each of the City's five largest agencies to sponsor two recreation centers each to continue operations of the recreation centers scheduled for closure or private partnerships after the 2012 summer season.

The Department of Finance appreciates the intent of this resolution. The Administration has made significant efforts to find partners to operate recreation centers and minimize closures. These partners include the Baltimore City Public Schools and several capable non-profit organizations. Our concerns about the resolution are twofold:

First, the departments of Housing and Community Development, Police, Transportation, General Services, and Public Works did not receive appropriations from the Mayor and City Council for the purpose of operating recreation centers. Their budgets are stretched fulfilling their core functions.

Second, the Mayor's plan for recreation centers, which has been supported by the last two city budgets, will provide Baltimore with a network of properly staffed, maintained and programmed facilities that is among the largest in the nation relative to population and land area. Even before the Great Recession, recreation center funding was stretched too thin and centers were understaffed, poorly maintained, and in many cases underutilized. The new direction puts quality over quantity by focusing limited resources and engaging community partners. Some centers will close and others will have reduced hours, but most will be upgraded and expanded. This is a sensible and strategic response to the reality of a prolonged fiscal crisis.

Going forward, the city's focus should be to fully fund the long-term capital needs of the model recreation and community centers. This will be one of the goals of the Mayor's Ten Year Financial Plan.

The Finance Department opposes this bill.

Cc: Harry Black
Angela Gibson



Angela