


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Khalil A. Zaied, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 10-0436		

TO

DATE: April 7, 2010

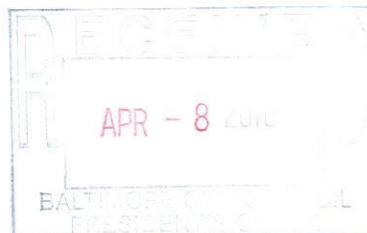
The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 10-0436 introduced by Council Members Clarke, Middleton, D'Adamo, Branch, Young, Kraft, Holton, Henry, Cole, Welch, Reisinger, and Spector.

The purpose of the Bill is to establish a BMore Streets for People Program and provide for its administration; define certain terms; establish and provide for the composition of a BMore Streets for People Advisory Board; establish the duties of the Advisory Board; establish a special effective date; and generally relating to BMore Streets for People.

City Council Bill 10-0436 would establish a BMore Streets for People Program administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and with the advice of a BMore Streets for People Advisory Board. Designated BMore Streets routes and schedules would be established if a neighborhood association requested to host such an event. An initial route from Lake Montebello to Druid Hill Lake is specified in the legislation. The Advisory Board would consult with the Director of DOT in the designations and the Director may close affected streets to vehicular traffic along the proposed routes. The intent of this program is to promote the use of these areas by communities for jogging, biking, skateboarding and other "people-engaging activities". Companion City Council Resolution 09-0177R calls upon the DOT to develop and conduct BMore Streets for People and to work collaboratively with the Departments of Health, Police, General Services, and the Offices for the Promotion of the Arts and Sustainability to implement these events throughout the City.

The Department of General Services is the agency that issues special event permits that cover everything from simple block parties to marathons and Artscape-type events. The permitting process allows for the coordinated review and approval by multiple agencies for these requests to block off or control access to rights-of-way for specific purposes and time periods. For large scale events, affected agencies meet to coordinate their activities to ensure smooth execution of responsibilities during the events. The BMore Streets for People activities would require a special events permit.

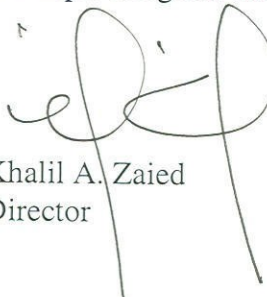


no obj/comments

This Department does not object to the BMore Streets for People Program but does have some questions regarding the legislation.

- Is it the intent of this Bill to supplant the special event permits? This already established administrative process would appear to provide the means for designating the BMore Streets for People routes and schedules.
- The use of the word “closing” in the legislation and under Article 31 of the Code carries a different connotation than is meant by this Bill. The closing of streets to vehicular traffic requires the introduction of an ordinance [Baltimore City Charter § 34(d)]. However, the intent of this legislation appears to be for a temporary closing, suspending vehicular use for a specified period of time.
- Clarity is needed in § 15-18(h) which requires the Advisory Board to remove any impediments to conducting and expanding the BMore Streets for People Program. Agencies have certain delegated responsibilities charged to them under the Charter and the Code that could be perceived as impediments to the program. Would an objection to a designated route by a community also be seen as an impediment?
- In § 15-21 of the Bill, agencies are required to extend their services and facilities to the extent that “...those officials and agencies are able to do so given their personnel and budgets.” Under the special events permits, applicants are required to pay an application fee and to reimburse the City for any expenses related to the event. Does this section of the Bill remove the City’s ability to be reimbursed for services provided?

The Department of General Services looks forward to the hearing on City Council Bill 10-0436 to hear in more detail how the BMore Streets for People Program and Advisory Board would function.



Khalil A. Zaied
Director

KAZ/MMC:pat