



BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABCD
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: April 8, 2009

Re: **City Council Bill 09-0310 Building, Fire, and Related Codes - Service Charges and Permit Fees**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 09-0310, which was introduced for the purpose of modifying certain service charges and permit fees, their amounts, the bases on which they are computed, and the dates on which they are due; and generally relating to the imposition of charges and fees under the Building, Fire, and Related Codes.

City Council Bill 09-0310 would convert Baltimore City's method for calculating fees for the rehabilitation and alteration of a structure to the regional standard utilized in neighboring jurisdictions. The City's current method, which utilizes a formula derived from the customer's own estimation of the cost of work, is impractical to enforce. When adopted, the new fee regime would create an objective and quantifiable method that would better serve both DHCD and its constituents.

The proposed new fee schedule for rehabilitation and alteration of one and two family dwellings would be calculated by charging thirty cents (\$0.30) for every square foot of affected gross floor area with a minimum fee amount of \$50.00. For all other rehabbed or altered structures, thirty-five cents (\$0.35) would be applied for each square foot with a minimum fee of \$150.00. In the case of newly constructed buildings, the proposed legislation would also calculate the fee for one and two family dwellings by applying twenty cents (\$0.20) for each square foot of floor area with a \$150.00 minimum and, for all other newly constructed structures, thirty-five cents (\$0.35) per square foot with \$250.00 minimum.

City Council Bill 09-0310 would increase permit application fees to \$50.00 (from \$25.00) for all structures other than a one or two family dwelling (which is unaffected and remains at \$25). Finally, the proposed legislation provides DHCD officials the discretion to assess a surcharge if a permit violation warrants an additional penalty in addition to the issuance of a citation. DHCD is promulgating regulations that will define the circumstances in which a surcharge may be imposed or waived.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 09-0310.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Andrew Frank
Ms. Diane Hutchins

