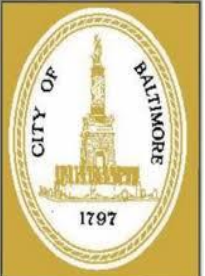


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Richard J. Luna, Interim Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0419		

February 26, 2024

TO:

Public safety and Government Operations Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0419 introduced by Council Member Burnett and President Mosby.

The purpose of the Bill is to require the Department of Public Works to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council no later than 120 days after the enactment of this ordinance, that evaluates the effectiveness of closing a portion of North Franklinton Road extending through Leakin Park to deter illegal dumping. Public Works is to confer with the Departments of Transportation, Recreation and Parks, and Fire and Police in the writing of the report.

The Department of Public Works wishes to state that it does not have control over or involvement in the closure of streets to vehicular traffic. While this ordinance speaks to researching whether closing a portion of N. Franklinton Road would resolve an illegal dumping issue, it would first have to be determined whether closing this portion of roadway is even feasible.

In past discussions about illegal dumping, the Department has noted the following:

- Residents have access to dispose of a variety of materials and bulky items at any of the five (5) free drop-off locations.
- The Community Pitch-In program allows for up to four (4) roll-offs/year to help with neighborhood cleanups.
- The Mayor’s Spring and Summer cleanups incentivize volunteers to host cleanup events.
- Bulky items can be scheduled for pickup by Public Works crews once/month.
- The Environmental Control Board’s B’More Beautiful program and Public Work’s B’More LOVE volunteer network and Eco-Warriors of the Future Campaign and competition are educating and galvanizing residents and youth to drive cleanup efforts and neighborhood pride.
- People need to assist by reporting what they see happening in their neighborhoods.

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It is challenging to find sufficient evidence at dumping sites to pursue enforcement. Even with these challenges, the Department of Housing and Community Development managed to successfully issue 293 citations for illegal dumping in FY2023.¹

This Department believes that one of the most promising ways to discourage illegal dumping is to establish waste diversion programs that get materials out of the waste stream (e.g. traditional recyclables, food recovery programs and food waste repurposing, composting, textile recycling) and to teach the value of repurposing and reusing what we routinely discard (fix-it clinics for small appliances and electronics, furniture repair and renewal, reclamation of usable construction and demolition debris).

The Department of Public Works has no objection to participating in a report examining whether the closing of N. Franklinton Road would have a discouraging effect on illegal dumping as outlined in City Council Bill 23-0419. However, as noted in this report, the Department of Public Works is not the appropriate agency to lead this initiative. Any report that includes closure of a right-of-way should begin with the Department of Transportation.



Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

RJL:MMC

¹ Department of Public Works Illegal Dumping Report for FY2023
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Baltimore%20City%20FY23%20Illegal%20Dumping%20Re%20mediation%20Report.pdf>