



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

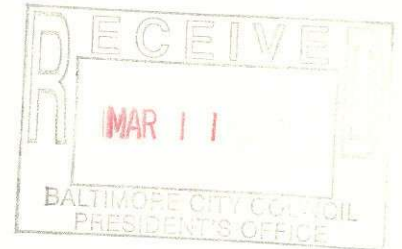
ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

March 8, 2013

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, ^{HB} Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0186-Soliciting-Prihibited Places



The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No.13-0186-Soliciting-Prohibited Places and supports the extension of the solicitation provisions in the Code.

City Council Bill No. 13-0186 seeks to expand the definitions and prohibitions outlined in Article 19 § 47 which provide for certain restrictions for persons engaged in solicitation. § 47-4 (4) currently prohibits a person from soliciting “from any operator or occupant of a motor vehicle that is in traffic on a public street.” The proposed legislation seeks to clarify current law and would prohibit persons standing in or on any roadway, lane divider, or shoulder and engaged in soliciting. These provisions mirror similar provisions adopted in Baltimore County in 2011.

The BPD welcomes the opportunity to discuss with the Council the overall enforcement issues surrounding the current law and those anticipated with the proposed extension. While it is clear that there are safety risks posed to both the motor vehicle operators and persons engaged in solicitation, it remains operationally difficult to enforce effectively. Often, law enforcement will be able to abate the violation by asking the solicitor to move from the roadway area only to have the violator return after the officer leaves the area.

Both Baltimore City and our service providers have made progress with outreach and service opportunities to persons who engage in solicitation in or around Baltimore. These issues are not limited to the roadway area however we must recognize the overall public safety issues for our citizens and visitors. Continuing efforts and investment into resources are necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and the BPD looks forward to discussing this with the Council.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

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c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211