



BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
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: March 28, 2008

Re: City Council Bill 08-0052 Littering – Penalties

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0052, which was introduced for the purpose of increasing the criminal and prepayable penalties for littering offenses.

The proposed legislation would increase the criminal and prepayable penalties for littering violations of the Health Codes of Baltimore City. The penalties for littering would increase from \$50 to \$500. Under the code, each and every day that the violation persists is regarded as a separate offence and therefore eligible for an additional penalty.

Daily accrual of penalties can be an effective tool for code enforcement. In practice, DHCD officials will cite multiple violations if the infraction continues over the course of several days. The objective is to accumulate penalties sufficient to compel the violator to comply with the code. If the individual penalty amount increases to \$500, it will give city officials greater flexibility to compel compliance without the need to issue as many citations per incident.

Increasing penalties will likely discourage citizens from littering. Consequently, the Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection to the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0052.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard

