


<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner	<b>Health Department</b>  <b>MEMO</b>	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0052 – Littering Penalties		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o  
409 City Hall

March 26, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department supports City Council Bill 08-0052. The purpose of the bill is to increase the criminal and prepayable citation penalties for littering.

Litter detrimentally affects both the environment and public health. Litter discarded in streets and parks travels through our storm water system and pollutes the bay and the ocean. Plastic litter chokes or suffocates birds and marine life. In addition, litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. Dangerous items such as broken glass and syringes are found on our streets and sidewalks.

Significantly increasing the fines for littering will hopefully deter people from casually throwing trash in non-designated, unacceptable areas.

Cc: Angela Gibson