



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 08-0051 Sanitary Maintenance – Penalties

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0051, which was introduced for the purpose of increasing the prepayable citation penalties for certain sanitary maintenance offenses.

The proposed legislation would increase the prepayable penalties for sanitary violations of the Property Maintenance Code for commercial and residential property. The penalties for violations at residential property would increase from \$50 to \$100 and for commercial property from \$100 to \$250. Additionally, the bill would authorize the Sanitation Enforcement Officers to cite the Property Maintenance Code when issuing the new penalties amounts.

Originally, the Sanitation Officers were under the supervision of the Department of Public Works. In 1997, the unit was transferred to DHCD and now the officers work in conjunction with the inspectors of the Housing Code Enforcement Division. Despite the transfer of the officers, the Environmental Control Board continues to be the body designated to adjudicate the citations issued by the officers.

Increasing the penalties may compel property owners and managers to take greater care with their properties by keeping them clean and free of trash. Consequently, the Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection to the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0051.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard

