



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE, INC.

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October 20, 2010

TO: The Hon. Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Baltimore City Council, Office of the President
Baltimore City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

FROM: Kirby Fowler, President *JKF*
Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

RE: Council Bill 09-0429: Required Parking for Bicycles

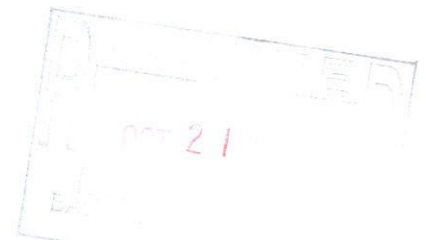
POSITION: Favor with Amendments

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore commends the Council for the many ways it is encouraging the growth and safety of bicycle transportation, and we find much to support in CB 09-0429. However, we are concerned that portions of the bill are directed at employers when they should be focusing on property owners. Within Downtown Baltimore, most businesses are tenants who do not own their office space, nor are they able to make physical changes to the property as stipulated by CB 09-0429. This is as true of major financial companies and law firms as it is of restaurants and non-profits such as Downtown Partnership. The same could be said for businesses across the city. We would definitely support CB 09-0429 if the focus was changed from "employers" to "property owners."

Also of concern is whether existing structures would be grandfathered under CB 09-0429. Many Downtown properties are built right to their property line and modifications would be prohibitive, if not impossible. If these properties are not grandfathered the bill should make provisions for: (a) off-premise bicycle spaces, (b) allowing businesses to share spaces, (c) allowing a hardship variance based on space limitations, and (d) providing monitored bike parking facilities near transit hubs and bike routes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor
Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Nate Evans



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