


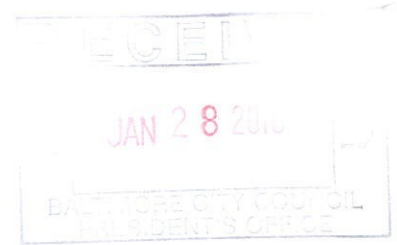
<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Khalil Zaied, Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL BILL 09-0418</b>		

**TO**

DATE:

January 26, 2010

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 – City Hall



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 09-0418 introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake and Council Members Kraft, Clarke, D'Adamo, Henry, Middleton, Spector, Holton, Reisinger, Cole, Young, Curran, Welch, and Branch.

The purpose of the Bill is to provide for certain notices and procedures by which vehicles scheduled for foreclosure sale may be removed from the sale and repurposed for City use; define certain terms; and generally relating to vehicle procurement and forfeiture sales.

Article VII § 132(g) tasks the Department of General Services with the responsibility to maintain the City's fleet of vehicles and equipment and to assign vehicles and equipment to other agencies of the City. Under Article 31 of the Baltimore City Code, unclaimed vehicles held at the Department of Transportation impound lot may be periodically sold at public auction, unless the vehicles held are needed for pending litigation or police action (§§ 31-50, 31-56 through 31-60).

City Council Bill 09-0418, if approved, would require the Director of Finance or other official in charge of the vehicle forfeiture sales to provide the Director of General Services with a list of the vehicles to be included in the sale. The vehicle listing should include the make, model and year of each vehicle. The Director of General Services is to notify the Finance Director of any vehicles of interest and to arrange for their evaluation. Should any of the evaluated vehicles be selected for City use, the Director of General Services is to notify the Finance Director to remove the vehicle from the forfeiture sale. Rules and regulations governing this process are to be jointly prepared and adopted by the Directors of General Services and Finance.

At this time, the Police Department is the only agency that looks for potentially useful vehicles prior to public auction. The Fleet Management Division of General Services tows these vehicles, purchases keys for the vehicles, and assesses what it will take to make the vehicles safe for daily use. On average, the cost to prepare, process title, and repair these vehicles ranges from \$800 to \$2,000. Any vehicle preparation and repair costing more than \$2,000 is generally rejected by the Police Department. The Police Department pays for the initial assessment performed by Fleet Maintenance and, if the

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vehicle is found to be acceptable, pays for the repair and servicing costs. Out of the 22 vehicles considered by the Police Department in 2009, only two were found to be worth repurposing for undercover operations.

The Department of General Services maintains a standardized fleet of vehicles used to perform certain City tasks. The City's fleet gets daily and hard use, and it is essential to have a fleet of safe vehicles that performs well for each agency, spends the least amount of time in repairs, getting the most value and efficient performance out of every vehicle. Personnel are trained to repair these makes and models and the garage is equipped with the parts, manuals, and accessory components to retrofit all aspects of the vehicles. Purchases of new vehicles ensure a steady supply of useful and functioning vehicles, rotating out older and less reliable models.

In considering City Council Bill 09-0418, this Department would be willing to comply with the proposed provisions, provided that the following minimum criteria is used in the selection of potentially useful vehicles:

- Make and model is compatible with the City's existing fleet;
- Vehicle age is 4 years or less;
- Odometer displays no more than 80,000 vehicle miles;
- Repair and servicing does not exceed \$2,000;
- Must be capable of passing a standard Maryland State inspection; and
- All standard safety features are intact and functioning.

Any vehicles acquired in this manner would be used to retire less reliable vehicles, and would not be used to expand the size of the City's fleet.

Based on the above information, the Department of General Services supports passage of City Council Bill 09-0418 according to the selection criteria provided, and is willing to work with the Department of Finance to jointly develop and adopt rules and regulations to carry out this proposed new subtitle.

  
Khalil Zaied  
Director

KZ/MMC