

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President City Council
FROM: Peter Little, Executive Director *Peter Little*
DATE: August 17, 2009
RE: Council Bill 09 - 0374



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 09-0374 introduced by Council President Rawlings-Blake at the request of the Administration (Department of Finance).

The purpose of this bill is to provide a Supplementary Revenue Bond Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$17,000,000 to the Department of Transportation (Account #9965-580-068), to provide funding for the purchase of the Front Street Garage, located at Front and Low Streets in Baltimore City.

There are, and have been, major parking problems in the area around this proposed parking garage. There were an insufficient number of off-street parking spaces built as part of the Maryland Juvenile Justice Facility (at Gay and Front Streets) and the Main Post Office (at Front and Fayette Streets). Because of that, the City has been forced to designate the vast majority of on-street metered parking in that area for long-term (8 to 10 hours) parking durations. As a result, there is almost no parking (either on-street or off-street) available for short-term parkers in the area. With the construction of the Front Street Garage, we will be able to re-designate all on-street metered parking in that area for short-term (between 30 minutes and 4 hours) parking. Additional developments occurring in the immediate vicinity, including three new hotels and the new Healthcare for the Homeless facility being constructed on what was formerly a City-owned parking lot at Front and Hillen Streets, will exacerbate these parking problems unless this garage is constructed.

Funding for this garage shall be the City of Baltimore parking system facilities revenue bonds secured by revenues of the parking enterprise fund.

Based on the comments above, the Baltimore City Parking Authority, Inc. supports the passage of City Council Bill 09-0374.

