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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew W. Klein, Chief Henry Raymond, Chief Revenue Collections
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall (396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 10-0489 Miscellaneous Offenses – Citation and Penalty Amounts

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

DATE: May 18, 2010

Council Bill 10-0489 seeks to increase the citations and penalties for certain environmental, civil and criminal offenses such as public spitting, urination, possessing open containers in public, disorderly drinking, and compliance with Park Rules.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill increases citations and penalties for various offenses by 100% to 500% from their current levels. The Finance Department has estimated increased penalty revenue based on historical citation levels and collection rates. Our analysis covers those offenses for which the City has issued citations and has records of payment or non-payment. The potential impacts of increased fines on behavior and collection rates are not estimated, though such impacts would tend to reduce the amount of new revenue. The department's estimate is at the high end of what could be expected from the bill.

From January 1, 2004 through March 31, 2010, 4,622 citations were issued for \$411,250. The collection rate varies by the type of violation; however, we have collected \$206,333, representing an average collection rate of about 50%. The average annual revenue from these fines is \$39,199.

The proposed citation increases are projected to result in fine amounts grossing \$518,652 annually (see table below), with gross collections of \$259,320. The net annual revenue increase is \$220,121 (\$259,320 minus \$39,199).

Offense	Gross Citation Amount
Public Spitting	\$6,168
Urination	\$240,720
Drinking Open Containers in Public	\$240,096
Disorderly drinking	\$22,428
Compliance with Park Rules	\$9,240
Total	\$518,652

The Department of Finance is not opposed to Council Bill 10-0489.

