


TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President City Council
Members of City Council

FROM: Peter Little, Executive Director 

DATE: August 8, 2008

RE: ORDINANCE 08-0043R



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0043R introduced by City Councilmembers Henry, Spector, Clarke, Curran and Holton.

The purpose of this bill is to request the Baltimore City Parking Authority to create and promote an RPP "Lite" program, where the restrictions would be for no more than one day of the week, and for no more than eight hours, and requesting that representatives from the Parking Authority inform the Baltimore City Council at a public hearing as to any issues involved in creating and promoting such a program.

The Parking Authority has reviewed the bill and, although we agree with the general premise and purpose of the bill, we ask that the request stated in the bill be modified or amended in some ways:

- We ask that the title of a new program be "Special Event RPP", and not "RPP Lite", to better indicate the purpose of this new program, and so as not to diminish the new program's effect.
- We ask that, in establishing this new program, we not be limited in the number of days per week or hours per day that any restrictions can occur. There are numerous special events throughout the City that occur over several days of the week and for more than eight hours in a day, for which this new program may apply.
- We ask that we be provided a sufficient period of time (up to 6 months) to draft such a program; to share it with our partners who would be affected by such a new program (i.e. the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, especially the Safety Division; the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks; and Baltimore Office of Promotion of the Arts); to review and revise the draft program; and then to present the program to City Council.

The Parking Authority has encountered many situations, especially over the course of this summer, where such a program would be of great benefit to residents of the City. We do understand, however, that such a program must be carefully considered - that precise policies, procedures and qualifications must be established before launching such a program; that the ramifications of these new restrictions are anticipated; and that the resources and the coordination of those resources are in place in order to ensure that the new program is successful.

The Parking Authority respects the intent of this bill. Therefore, the Parking Authority supports the passage of City Council Bill 08-0043R if amended or revised as described above.

