

March 8, 2021

To: Baltimore City Council – Ways and Means Committee

Re: City Council Bill 21-0029

Commercial Parking Facilities – Annual License Fee

Dear, Councilman Eric Costello:

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

LAZ Parking Mid-Atlantic is predominantly an operator of Commercial/Residential Parking Garages, Surface Lots and Hospitality Valet to over 20 clients in the Baltimore City Market. Our clients range from Commercial Property Owners, Residential Building Owners, Non-Profit institutions such as Museums, and Hospitality Clients such as Hotels and Restaurants.

The proposed increase in the Annual Parking License will negatively affect ALL our clients' businesses that are already suffering to maintain viable operations. LAZ Parking employs a large percentage of Baltimore City residents and our workforce has declined due to the pandemic. and We fear that increasing garage annual licensing fees will only further prolong the recovery of our clients' businesses and directly impact our ability to bring people back to work.


Due to our diverse city client base, we are uniquely positioned to testify of the far reaching and detrimental implications of this proposed bill throughout various industries in the City. Over 20% of our clients were forced to permanently close and many have remained closed throughout the pandemic, with the hopes of opening later this year. If this bill is passed, it would create undue burden on many already struggling companies that are vital to the **longevity and health** of Baltimore City.

Our clients support tourism, employment, recreation and increase the desirability of people to move into the city as residents and contribute in other means to the financial well-being of the city. This bill will have negative impacts to businesses already suffering and be counterproductive to business retention and attraction efforts, especially with a lack of viable public transportation alternatives currently available.

The Parking Association of Baltimore City has already outlined the many financial contributions the Parking Industry is responsible for in supporting the City with the Parking Tax (20%), Real Property Tax and already the highest licensing fees in the region.

Thank you for your consideration and we respectfully ask you to vote **NO** to City Council Bill 21-0029, as it is in the best interest to the overall well-being of the City, its citizens, businesses, and the visitors we serve.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Gomes, CPP, CPM

General Manager

W [410\) 385-8886 x7106](tel:4103858886) | F [202\) 667-3050](tel:2026673050)

300 East Lombard | Suite 930 | Baltimore, MD 21202