


FROM	NAME & TITLE	<i>RF</i> Niles R. Ford, PhD, Chief of Fire Department	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 East Fayette St. 21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #14-0445 Response to: Prohibited Open-flame Cooking-Enforcement by Citation		

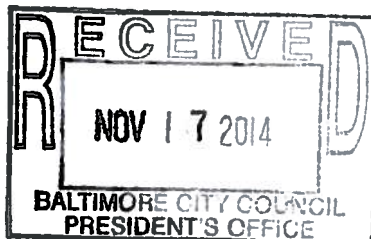
TO

The Honorable Bernard C. Young, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408

DATE: November 10, 2014

For the purpose of authorizing the issuance of environmental and civil citations to Enforce the existing prohibition on the use of an open-flame cooking device within 10 feet of a combustible construction or property line; and generally relating to open-flame cooking.

The Baltimore City Fire Department has concerns with City Council Bill 14-0445 as proposed. The language in the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) states that the exception to this code is one and two family dwellings, which many of them in Baltimore City, do not have a 10 feet allotment as required in the Code. It is being understood that the Baltimore City Fire Code wants to remove the exceptions language as written in the IFC. Investigation of operation of grills in residences would not only be extended to fire inspectors as proposed in this bill to write citations, but to also regular fire suppression units, which would be dangerous because the investigation of these low acuity calls would cause them to not be available to take high acuity calls such as fires, rescues, etc. per NFPA 1710. The Fire Department, as with any city agency, should not be allowed to go into anyone's home without permission if there is not any emergent threat to life or property. This proposed City Council Bill does not qualify as that. It also appears unfair to city residents who have homes where there are not 10-foot exterior provisions for accommodation of compliance to this proposed bill. The combustible surfaces (wooden decks, roof decks, etc.) prohibition as stated in the Code, can be enforced via citation as proposed in this bill. It should be understood that citations will only be written based on non-compliance of verbal orders from fire department personnel to cease operations of said open-flame devices.



Fav w/ concerns