

*Andrew Klein*

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410 396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #13-0293 - Unsafe Vacant Structures

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



**TO**

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

DATE:  
December 11, 2013

City Council Bill #13-0293 has been introduced for the purpose of modifying the criteria for determining that a structure is a “vacant structure” or is in noncompliance with a notice or order issued by the Building Official; require that all windows, doors and other openings of a vacant structure, at any level, be boarded; and generally relating to the definition and required safeguarding of vacant structures.

The Department of Public Works (DPW), Bureau of Solid Waste (BSW), currently boards all vacant abandoned properties in the city. On average, BSW respond to approximately 8,000 boarding requests annually, at an estimated cost of \$1 million. Crews performing these services for vacant abandoned private properties are not equipped to board beyond the current 24 foot boarding requirement. Handling boarding materials above the current 24-foot limit would require a significant investment in equipment and materials as well as increased personnel, safety equipment and training. Therefore, Department of Finance and DPW will need to determine the true cost of providing the increased level of service required under the proposed legislation.

Based on the above findings, the Department of Finance does not support City Council Bill 13-0293.

cc: Harry Black  
Angela Gibson

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