


TRANSMITTAL MEMO

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

FROM: Peter Little, Executive Director 

DATE: February 27, 2009

RE: ORDINANCE 09-0273



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 09-0273 introduced by Council Members Conaway, Welch and Branch.

The purpose of this bill is to impose an annual fee for establishing and maintaining passenger loading and freight loading zones; and correcting, clarifying and confirming related provisions governing loading zones

The Baltimore City Parking Authority, Inc. has reviewed this bill and understands and appreciates its intent. However, we foresee some problems that are likely to arise if this bill is adopted. First, many freight loading zones are placed on blocks in such a way that they serve multiple business establishments on that block (and, sometimes, surrounding blocks). If a fee is imposed on such freight loading zones, it may be very difficult to determine which of the businesses must pay the annual fee, or contribute toward that payment. It is likely that, if one business requests and pays the fees for a freight loading zone, then they will assume some degree of "ownership" of it and attempt to prevent other businesses from using the zone. This in turn, will cause the other businesses in that area to obtain their own freight loading zones, thereby reducing the availability of on-street public parking for those looking to patronize those businesses. Also, a fee on freight loading zones may cause businesses to forego requests for those zones. Instead, they may instruct freight deliverers to double park, causing traffic flow issues, or to park at metered spaces, taking parking away from business patrons.

Based on the above concerns, the Baltimore City Parking Authority, Inc. cannot support the passage of City Council Bill 09-0273 at this time. However, the Parking Authority is very willing to work with the sponsors of this bill to address the issues this bill is meant to remedy.

