


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 12-0105		

TO

DATE:
August 31, 2012

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 12-0105 introduced by the Council President on behalf of the Administration (Baltimore Development Corporation).

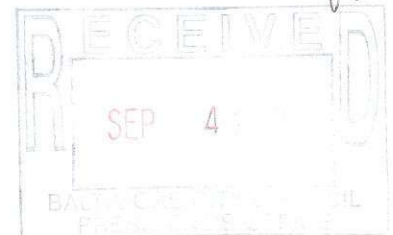
The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Urban Renewal Plan for Fells Point Waterfront to add to Appendix A an additional promenade standard that would regulate the number of newspaper vending boxes along the promenade; waive certain content and procedural requirements; make the provisions of the Ordinance severable; and to provide for the application of this Ordinance in conjunctions with certain other ordinances.

Ordinance 07-569 established the Urban Renewal Plan for Fells Point Waterfront. The Urban Renewal Area is generally bounded by Dock Street, Caroline Street, Thames Street, Wolfe Street, Aliceanna Street, Chester Street and the Harbor.

Newspaper vending boxes placed in the City’s rights-of-way require Minor Privilege permits (Article VIII of the Baltimore City Charter). Article 15 Subtitle 19 of the Baltimore City Code governs the manner in which newspaper boxes may be placed in a defined Downtown Area, including the size, labeling, placement and removal of newspaper boxes in the public right-of-way. City Council Bill 12-0105, if approved, would add to Appendix A of the Urban Renewal Plan for Fells Point Waterfront an additional standard to require that no more than four newspaper boxes would be permitted within 300 feet of each other along the promenade. The Urban Renewal Area is not included within the aforementioned Downtown Area.


Control of newspaper vending boxes has been an issue that the Law Department has addressed in the past. In fact, standards for these encroachments are established in Appendix D of the Urban Renewal Plan for Mt. Vernon (Ordinance 06-206). The standard is as follows: “Media boxes shall be limited to 5 for any block-face and limited to 10 within any 500 foot radius. All media boxes on any block-face shall be co-located and shall be installed in a media box corral.”

Refers to Law/A



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The Department of Public Works suggests that the term "media box" may be a more appropriate and more encompassing description for these vending boxes. The Department defers to the Law Department on City Council Bill 12-0105.



Alfred H. Foxx
Director

AHF/MMC:ela

cc: Ms. Marcia Collins