


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Thomas J. Stosur, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Planning Room 800, 417 E. Fayette Street		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #09-0284 One Plus One		

TO President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
And Members of the City Council

DATE: April 3, 2009

Please be advised of the following comments on behalf of the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability (CoS) in support of Bill #09-0284.

This bill would enable the City of Baltimore to shift from twice weekly trash and twice monthly recycling pick-up to once weekly trash and once weekly recycling pick-up. This change would directly respond to the following goals of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan as approved by City Council on March 2, 2009:

- Resource Conservation Goal #3: Minimize the production of waste, and
- Resource Conservation Goal #4: Maximize reuse and recycling of materials
(Specifically, Strategy E: Institute once weekly recycling and once weekly trash pick up service).

After some thoughtful discussion, the CoS voted to support Bill #09-0284, believing it to be in the best environmental and financial interest of the broader Baltimore community. This legislation provides a wonderful and timely opportunity to reallocate and enhance City of Baltimore services in more sustainable manner. In addition, support of Bill #09-0284 is consistent with the CoS's Guiding Principles to:

- Consider the impacts of people, planet, and prosperity of all decisions, and
- Strive to apply financial savings of sustainable operations to further sustainability goals.

While the CoS supports the intent and form of the legislation, they do have concerns about § 1-7 "Use of hydrants". The legislation states that "[t]he Director of Public Works may use the water from fire hydrants in order to flush the gutters, streets, lanes, and alleys of the city." Such activity is in direct conflict with both water conservation and water quality goals. Trash flushed from the aforementioned sources would ultimately end up in our waterways to the detriment of the ecological, social, and financial health of the city. For these reasons, the CoS requests that § 1-7 be reevaluated.

Due to its commitment to waste minimization and recycling expansion the CoS supports Bill #09-0284.

CC: Cheryl Casciani, Chair, Sustainability Commission
Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
Angela Gibson, City Council
Beth Strommen, Office of Sustainability

