


FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0203		

TO

DATE: November 3, 2008

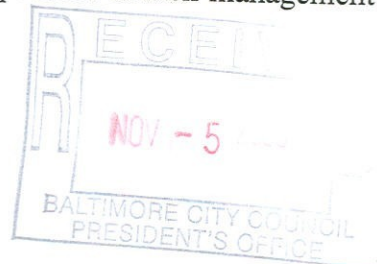
The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0203 introduced by Council Members Henry, Clarke, Curran, Kraft, Branch, Cole, Conaway, Welch, Reisinger, Holton, Middleton, Young and Spector.

The purpose of the Bill is to include sanitation and public safety activities to the management services that may be provided by a Business Association within a Retail Business District; correct, clarify, and conform related language; and generally relating to the purposes and operations of Retail Business Districts.

Article 14 Subtitle 11 of the Baltimore City Code allows for establishing retail business districts by ordinance. Retail business districts have defined geographic boundaries and include a formula for calculating a rate per square foot of leaseable retail space as a means for establishing the fees paid annually to fund the business district activities. The Director of Finance collects the fees and deposits them into special fund accounts for each district. The collected fees are distributed to the business districts within 75 days of their collection. The fees are used to manage the business districts and provide advertising and promotional activities that encourage patronage of the businesses. The business districts are required to apply for a Retail Business License. The following business districts exist through ordinances: Oldtown Mall, Market Center, York Road, Pimlico, Monument Street, Highlandtown, Hamilton, Federal Hill Market Place, Pennsylvania Avenue/Lafayette Market, and Mount Washington Business District.

City Council Bill 08-0203, if approved, would add sanitation and security services to the list of permissible uses for Business District fees. Enhancing the cleanliness and safety of retail districts will attract and retain customers, and will keep these areas viable and profitable. Sanitation and security services are a permissible and integral part of the services provided by Community Benefit Districts and by the Downtown Commercial District Management Authority (Article II, §§ 61 and 63, Baltimore City Charter). Expanding these same public/private service partnerships to Retail Business Districts will add to the attractiveness of the districts to patrons and will help support the promotional components of their management programs.



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Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council
Bill 08-0203.



David E. Scott, P.E.
Director

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