



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: February 28th, 2024

Re: City Council Bill 23-0419 Study and Report - North Franklinton Road

Introduction

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0419 Study and Report - North Franklinton Road for the purpose of requiring that the Department of Public Works submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the effectiveness of closing the portion of North Franklinton Road extending through Leakin Park to deter illegal dumping; specifying the contents of the report; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 23-0419 would require, within 120 days of its enactment, that the Department of Public Works consult with the Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Police Department, and Fire Department to submit a report on the effectiveness of closing the section of North Franklinton Road extending through Leakin Park to deter illegal dumping. That report would include:

- an analysis of the effectiveness of blocking the road as a solution to illegal dumping;
- other measures the City could take to abate the illegal dumping of refuse in Leakin park;
- a proposed method to restrict vehicle access to the closed portion of road while maintaining the aesthetic value of the park;
- an assessment of how closing the portion of the road may affect traffic patterns;
- an assessment of how closing the portion of the road may affect emergency services in the area;
- an assessment of how closing the portion of the road may restrict recreational access to the park;
- and any other input or concerns City agencies may have regarding the potential closure of the portion of North Franklinton road.

DHCD Analysis

DHCD's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates larger complaints of illegal dumping such as construction debris, multiple bags of trash and bulk items. Upon the completion of a successful investigation, SIU Investigators either issue Environmental Control Board Citations or file misdemeanor criminal charges against dumpers in Baltimore City District Court. Investigations are initiated through 311 complaints, reports from community members, at the request of elected officials or sister agencies, and by the proactive discovery of investigators already on duty. SIU also conducts regular proactive inspections of known illegal dumping hotspots. Once DHCD's Special Investigations Unit has investigated an illegal dumping site, the matter may be referred to DPW to remove the illegally dumped debris. Some 311 complaints are referred directly to DPW such as dirty street or dirty alley requests and are not assessed by DHCD.

This process applies to DHCD investigations of illegal dumping on North Franklinton Road except in those cases Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is responsible for clean-up of any illegal dumping sites once identified. BCRP may involve DOT and DPW as necessary for assistance depending on the volume. During its investigation of the 2.5 mile stretch of North Franklinton Road DHCD's SIU Team indicated that most of the regular dumping sites along the route are not on Franklinton Road per se but are instead located near parking lots or on offshoot access routes for the Gwynns Falls Trail. SIU identified dumping at the below 4 locations and noted in their analysis that they may be served by installing bollards or jersey walls to limit vehicle access. Those locations are as follows:

- N. Franklinton Rd & Wetheredsville Rd: 27 service requests (SRs) in the past year.
- Gwynns Falls Trail & N. Franklinton Rd: 10 (SRs) in the past year.
- 4700 N. Franklinton Rd (Leakin Park parking lot): 6 (SRs) in the past year.
- Gwynns Falls Trail (no address but east of BCRP parking lot): Does not have a physical address to track but is also used for illegal dumping.

Conclusion

DHCD has no objection to the submission of a report by the Department of Public Works to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the effectiveness of closing the portion of North Franklinton Road extending through Leakin Park to deter illegal dumping.

We respectfully take **no position and defer to the Department of Public Works** on City Council Bill 23-0419.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations