


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 19-0165R		

January 17, 2020

TO:

Health Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 19-0165R introduced by Council Member Burnett, President Scott, Council Members Henry, Cohen, Schleifer, Sneed, Costello, Pinkett, Dorsey, Clarke, Reisinger, McCray, Bullock and Stokes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite representatives from the Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Health Department, and the Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation to present to the City Council a plan for coordinated community clean-up and maintenance throughout Baltimore and a plan for increased community involvement.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Department of Public Works, in concert with CleanStat and participating agencies, has found the following collaborative efforts to be productive approaches for addressing persistent sanitation challenges:

- Cleaning and Mowing – the challenge of the backlog of vacant lots to be mowed is being addressed by an informal “mowing task force” comprised of DPW, DOT, and Recreation and Parks, to tackle these properties on weekends;
- Gateways Initiative – a new initiative to rate the cleanliness of 20 roadways around the city with high volumes of traffic, which are then coordinated and cleaned by DPW, DOT, or Recreation and Parks; and
- Data Fellows Program – a new initiative that has placed a skilled data analyst within DPW to improve data collection processes as well as provide analyses of crew deployment, metrics, and other data to improve efficiencies.

The Department agrees that community engagement is necessary if neighborhoods are to improve and sustain cleanliness. The Department is a partner in the BMore Beautiful efforts, a partner and supporter of the Food Matters initiative, and assists with organized events sponsored by nonprofit organizations and community groups, such as Cheers to Clean Water led by Trash Free Maryland.

In addition to educational outreach to schools and quadrant chiefs and superintendents attending community meetings to directly engage with the communities they serve, these long-standing programs have proven to be a popular way for communities to invest in the cleanliness of their neighborhoods:

- Mayor's Spring and Fall Clean-ups – Supporting these events encourage communities to register and actively participate in selected cleaning projects such as alleyways, vacant lots, stream banks, and schoolyards. Hours spent by residents for these registered clean-ups are eligible for stormwater fee credits.
- Community Pitch-In Days – One of the more popular programs which allows community groups up to four (4) "roll-off" events per year for organized neighborhoods to dispose of debris.
- Hosted events – Shred events, recycling bin sales, and GROW Centers are scheduled throughout different locations in the city to provide residents with safe ways to clear and safely dispose of their homes of sensitive personal data, purchase recycling bins near where they live, and learn about beautification efforts, how to manage trash and how to recycle.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on this resolution to provide more detailed information and to answer any questions the Council Committee may have on City Council Resolution 19-0165R.

Should the Committee have any questions prior to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960, or via email at Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov.



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Director

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