


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jason W. Mitchell, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0157		

November 9, 2021

TO:

Economic and Community Development Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0157 introduced by Council Members Dorsey, Cohen, and Burnett.

The purpose of the Bill is to allow a user of a City-owned take-home vehicle to drive the vehicle solely within the confines of Baltimore City; and to authorize City agencies to adopt implementing rules and regulations to conform with this requirement.

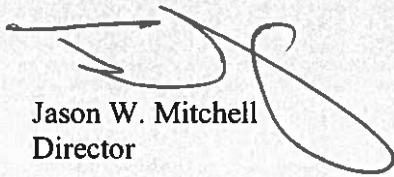
The Department of Public Works has more than 2,000 employees and a fleet of vehicles leased through the Department of General Services that include sedans, SUVs, work vans, pickup trucks, and heavy duty work vehicles such as mechanical street sweepers, load packers, and construction equipment. The intent of City Council Bill 21-0157 is to confine the use of City take-home vehicles to within the City limits. Our records show that 16 Public Works employees are currently assigned City take-home vehicles, which includes the Director, Deputy Director, a bureau head, on-call safety and emergency personnel, and the environmental police.

This Department is responsible for operating and maintaining regional water and wastewater facilities, which include operations and facilities located outside of the City (e.g. Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant, sewer and water pumping stations, elevated water tanks, three reservoirs with impoundment dams, water intake facility at Conowingo, and water and wastewater pipes and force mains). These systems serve the City and portions of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, and Harford counties, and require continual monitoring, coordinating, patrolling, maintaining and operating activities, some of which is provided around-the-clock, seven days a week.

Due to the Department's unique circumstances, as well as the job requirements of some Public Works employees, it is not feasible to constrain the use of the assigned take-home vehicles to within the limits of the City; therefore, this agency cannot support City Council Bill 21-0157 as written. To address these concerns, the Department of Public Works did submit to the Office of

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the Administrator an amendment that would exempt these Public Works employees from the Bill's provisions. This amendment is to be included in the Administrator's packet of amendments to the proposed legislation. The Department of Public Works therefore defers to the Office of the City Administrator on City Council Bill 21-0157.



Jason W. Mitchell
Director

JWM/MMC