



SHEILA DIXON  
Mayor

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police Commissioner

February 4, 2010

TO: The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400 City Hall  
**Attn. Karen Randle**

FROM: James H. Green, <sup>JHG</sup> Deputy Chief Legal Counsel  
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 09-0418-Vehicle Forfeiture Sales

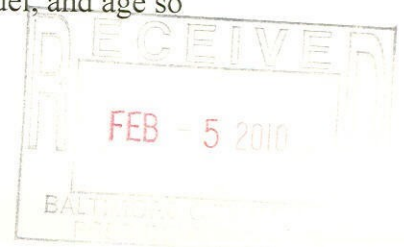
The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 09-0418-Vehicle Forfeiture Sales which provides for certain notice and procedures by which vehicles scheduled for sale may be removed from the sale and repurposed for City usage and supports its passage.

The BPD utilizes Medallion towers to remove vehicles pursuant to accidents, and those that are abandoned or involved in criminal investigations. The majority of the cars which are subject to this legislation are vehicles that the BPD pursues forfeiture pursuant to violations of the controlled dangerous substance laws.

The Asset Forfeiture Unit works in conjunction with the State's Attorney's Office and pursuant to Md. Code, Crim. Proc., Article 12-Forfeiture-Controlled Dangerous Substances Violations and prepares cases for forfeiture proceedings. This process requires approval and referral from the Police Commissioner's Office. The cases are then taken to court, settled or released by the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City. If forfeiture is granted a judgment of forfeiture is issued by the court and the value of the vehicle is assessed by the DPW/Motor Pool Section. It is then determined whether the vehicle can be repurposed for inclusion in the fleet.

The Department's statistics show that in 2009, 369 cases were prepared for forfeiture proceedings and 102 vehicles were in fact forfeited to the City. This year, thirty-nine (39) cases have been prepared and thirteen (13) vehicles forfeited. The BPD has reviewed the Department of General Services proposed criteria and substantially agrees however, the vehicles that are determined to be appropriate for the City fleet should not be limited by make, model, and age so long as the other requirements are met.

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The BPD stands willing to assist in the City's collective efforts in this area and supports the proposed legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

cc: Frederick H. Bealefeld III, Police Commissioner, BPD  
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison