

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL BILL 16-0728</b>

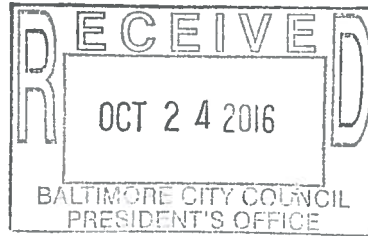
CITY of  
**BALTIMORE**  
**MEMO**



DATE: October 19, 2016

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin  
Room 400 – City Hall



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 16-0728 introduced by Council Member Kraft, President Young, Council Members Costello, Stokes, Holton, Middleton, Clarke, Reisinger, Curran, and Welch.

The purpose of the Bill is to require that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event; and generally relating to the provision of City support to nonprofit events.

The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Solid Waste, provides support services for special events in the form of trash and recycling containers, collection of trash and recycling, and general cleanup of impacted areas which, depending on the size and duration of the event, could require multiple trash and recycling collections and the deployment of crews and mechanical sweepers. Special event permits are issued by the Department of Transportation and each agency is responsible for providing a bill for their services to DOT. Prior to July 1, 2016, agencies were required to send their bills for services directly to the Department of Finance. A standard fee for unit of service is used to determine the amount billed. The costs to provide services to City-sponsored events are absorbed by the respective agencies. Ethnic festivals and community-sponsored events used to receive a 50% discount for services, but this amenity ended in 2015 due to the costs being incurred by agencies operating under increasingly tight budgets.

During the last update of the Building, Fire and Related Codes (Ordinance 15-427), the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee had a general discussion concerning the ability to distinguish between events that were community- or nonprofit-centric and profit-driven events, and whether billing preferences could be given to one over the other for, in this case, annual and short-term assembly permits. Amendments were adopted to waive these permit fees if "...the net proceeds from any of these activities, other than amusement devices, are to be used exclusively for the benefit of a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable or religious organization, then, on the organization's submission with the permit application of evidence documenting its qualifications, the permit fee is waived." [Part II. International Building Code, Chapter 1. Scope and Administration, Section 109.6.5(a) and (b)]

Over the course of a typical year, the Bureau of Solid Waste provides cleaning and disposal services to more than 40 recurring events (this number does not include small neighborhood block parties that request a trash pickup). Approximately half of that number is for City-sponsored events. The Bureau bills approximately \$100,000 a year for special events services, and of that amount, approximately a third is for nonprofit events. Based on these estimated

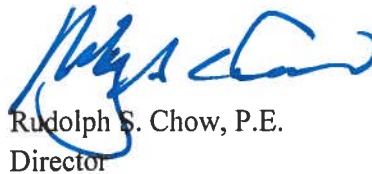
*No objection*

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amounts, the impact of providing a 50% discount to nonprofits would be an additional incurred cost of approximately \$15,000 per year. Should the legislation achieve its intent to lower costs to nonprofits and thus encourage these events, the costs incurred by the Bureau of Solid Waste would be expected to increase in the future.

The Department of Public Works does not object to the intent of City Council Bill 16-0728, but cautions that as costs continue to grow, the stress on functions supported by General Funds, such as those performed by the Bureau of Solid Waste, will also grow unless or until the General Fund stabilizes and grows as well.

Respectfully,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director

RSC/MMC:ela