



SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

January 20, 2009

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

FROM: *JHG*
James H. Green, Deputy Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0112-Late Night Commercial Operations-
Licensing

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 08-0112-Late Night Commercial Operations-Licensing. The proposed legislation would require businesses, subject to several exceptions, to obtain a late-night operations license in order to be open to the public between the hours of midnight and 6 A.M and allows for a process of noting protest objections by members of the community upon application or annual renewal.

The BPD supports the concept of increased oversight for businesses which operate in a late-night capacity and stands willing to assist in the City's collective efforts in this area. The department recommends that any regulating procedure also take into account overall public safety concerns of the neighborhood surrounding the business. It remains the business' responsibility to provide a safe environment for its customers. Over the last several years, the BPD has observed a greater relationship of violence associated with a growing number of late-night establishments and therefore a corresponding deployment of resources. Equally important, it is recommended that the committee consider provisions that would allow for an immediate closure of the business if the public safety so warrants. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

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

F/Comments

