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| FROM | NAME & TITLE | GARY W. COLE, ACTING DIRECTOR <i>G Cole</i> | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR | | |
| | SUBJECT | CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0194- FOR DISABLED PERSONS AND HELPERS-TEMPORARY DISABILITIES | | |

TO

DATE:

February 6, 2009

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of February 5, 2009, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0194 for the purpose of authorizing, under certain circumstances, reserved parking for persons with temporary disabilities and their helpers; correcting, conforming, and clarifying related language; and generally relating to reserved parking for disabled persons and their helpers.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended amendments to and approval of City Council Bill #08-0194 and adopted the following resolution, eight members being present (eight in favor).

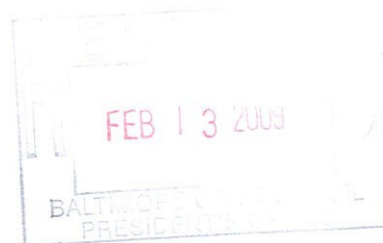
RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0194 be amended and passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Acting Division Chief for Land Use and Urban Design at 410-396-4488.

GWC/ttl

cc:

- Mr. Andy Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Demuane Millard, Chief of Staff
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable "Rikki" Spector, City Council Commission Representative
- Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
- Ms. Deepa Bhattacharyya, Law Department
- Mr. Larry Greene, Councilmanic Services
- Mr. Al Foxx, Director, BDOT



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PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

February 5, 2009

REQUEST: City Council Bill #08-0194/For Disabled Persons and Helpers – Temporary Disabilities

For the purpose of authorizing, under certain circumstances, reserved parking for persons with temporary disabilities and their helpers; correcting, conforming, and clarifying related language; and generally relating to reserved parking for disabled persons and their helpers.

RECOMMENDATION: Amendment and Approval. The sole amendment is as follows:

That Article 31 Transit and Traffic, Subtitle 6-9 should be amended to require a decal or other appropriate marking, as the Director may deem appropriate, bearing the expiration date of the temporary reserved parking space to be placed on the signs designating the reserved parking space in order to be visible to the general public.

STAFF: Eric Tiso

ANALYSIS

Background: This bill amends part of Baltimore City Code, Article 31 *Transit and Traffic*, in Subtitle 9 *Parking for Disabled Persons and Helpers*. Presently, disabled persons can request a reserved parking space close to their homes for permanent disabilities. The bill seeks to add the eligibility of those that are not permanently disabled, but who will be disabled for at least one year, as well as their helpers.

In order to be approved for a reserved parking space, the applicant will need to submit documentation from a physician dated within the previous six months detailing the disability's impact on the applicant's mobility and the expected duration of the disability. Additionally, the applicant will need to supply signed statements of support from two abutting neighbors and four additional property owners in the block. In the event that the applicant cannot provide such signatures, there are override procedures in place.

Administrative Approval: As with other reserved parking spaces that last beyond six months in duration, the administrative regulation creating the temporary reserved space would be referred to the President of the City Council and the Chairman of the Highways and Franchises Subcommittee of the City Council within fifteen days, with a request for it to be permanent (or in the case of this bill, for up to one year's duration). As long as there is no written objection made by the President of the City Council or the Chairman of the Highways and Franchises Subcommittee, the regulation shall cease to be temporary and can continue. If written objection is received by the Director of Public

Works, an ordinance would need to be introduced into the City Council requesting the change, and, depending upon the passage or failure of the ordinance, the administrative regulation shall become permanently effective, or be of no further force or effect as may be decided.

Amendment: In certain areas of the City where on-street parking comes at a premium, many residents are concerned about the provision of these reserved spaces, as they remove one on-street parking space from the overall availability in the area. Concerns have been raised that the reserved parking spaces may not be removed promptly at the end of the temporary disability. Staff recommends that in a fashion similar to the permit displayed in the vehicle of the disabled or helper person that has an expiration date, a decal or other appropriate marking should appear on the signs marking the reserved parking space, so that area residents or users of the on-street parking in the area would be able to see the expiration date of the temporary parking space. In the event that the expiration is not noted in a timely fashion and the reserved space signs are not removed, any impacted person could inform the Parking Authority of the problem and request that the reserved parking space signs be removed.



**Gary W. Cole,
Acting Director**