

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

October 23, 2008

The Honorable President and  
Members of the Baltimore  
City Council  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 08-0193 – Valet Parking

Dear President and Members



You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 08-0193. City Council Bill 193 creates a regulatory process for the provision of valet parking services. The bill provides for the creation a licensing and permitting scheme for the operators of valet services and for valet parking zones. The administrative duties related to the regulation of valet parking services would be provided by the Baltimore City Parking Authority.

The Bill provides that no person may park in a valet parking zone during it hours of operation unless the vehicle is loading or unloading passengers or using the valet services. Business establishments may provide valet parking services through the use of their own employees or through the use of an operator. In either case, the provider of the valet services must obtain an operator's license unless the valet services are eligible for an exemption under Section 14-5. The bill provides for the application process and requirements and requires that all applicants obtain liability insurance coverage as prescribed by the Baltimore City Office of Risk Management. If all criteria are of the law are met, the Parking Authority must issue a license.

In addition to the license, the host/business establishment must obtain a valet parking zone permit. In order to obtain a permit, a host must submit an application with a valet parking plan that meets the requirements of the law. The plan must include, among other information, the days and times of operation, the size of the establishment being served by the valet, photos of the location, a description of the drop-off and pick-up pattern, the location of the off-street parking facility where the vehicles will be parked (within a 2 mile radius of the Host business), a copy of any lease agreement with the off-street parking facility, and the route used by the drivers. The bill also requires written notice to all community associations and adjacent property owners of the application and proposed valet parking plan. The Director of the Parking Authority reviews the plan pursuant to the criteria in the bill and submits recommendations to the Director of Transportation regarding the approval or disapproval of the plan.

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In order to receive a valet parking zone permit, the host and any contract operator providing services must provide a written statement agreeing to indemnify and hold harmless the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and the Parking Authority. The Director of Transportation may also impose conditions and limitations to the permit as needed to ensure public safety, equal access to public property and uninterrupted flow of traffic. The host must seek an amended permit if there are any major changes in the operation of the services.

Finally the bill provides for certain standards for the operation of a valet parking services and for the denial, suspension or revocation of licenses and permits. The bill also provides for penalties for violations and for enforcement by environmental citation.

City Council Bill 08-0193 is consistent with the authority of the City Council to regulate parking and the use of the streets in Baltimore City. The Law Department, therefore, approves the City Council Bill 08-0193 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Elena R. DiPietro  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison  
George A. Nilson, City Solicitor  
Linda C. Barclay, Chief Solicitor  
Deepa Bhattacharyya, Assistant Solicitor  
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