

TJS

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 TH FLOOR
	SUBJECT	CCB #09-0273/LOADING ZONES – FEE FOR MAINTAINING

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE:
March 10, 2009

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

The Department of Planning has received City Council Bill No. 09-0273 for review. This legislation is “for the purpose of imposing an annual fee for establishing and maintaining passenger loading zones and freight loading zones; and correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions governing loading zones.”

This bill authorizes the Director of Public Works to determine the location and operational hours of curbside passenger and freight loading zones and to collect a fee for the establishment of such zones. Furthermore, the Director of Public Works is required to place and maintain signage at each such zone to inform the public of the associated parking restrictions. The bill is an attempt to balance the loading needs of hotel and business operators with the costs the City incurs upon creation of such zones. The fee is intended to recoup the City’s loss of on-street parking revenues, as well as to cover the cost of the associated signage.

While the Department of Planning is supportive of the intent of the bill, it sees a number of problems with the legislation itself. First, the imposition of a fee may encourage business owners to forego the establishment of new loading zones and to simply encourage delivery drivers and others to double park in front of their establishments. This would have an immediate negative impact on the surrounding roadways. Second, in the case where one loading zone serves multiple business locations, there needs to be more study as to how to a fee would be assessed on all the various property owners who benefit from the loading zone.

As such, the Department of Planning does not support City Council Bill #09-0273 in its present form but encourages further review of the issues raised.

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

TJS/wya

- cc: Mr. Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Demaune Millard, Chief of Staff
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor’s Office
- The Honorable Rochelle “Rikki” Spector, Council Rep. for the Planning Commission

copy comment

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Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair of the Planning Commission
Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
Mr. Larry Greene, Council Services
Mr. Peter Little, Parking Authority
Mr. Alfred Foxx, Department of Transportation