


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 17-0144		

DATE: November 15, 2017

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 17-0144 introduced by Council Member Clarke, President Young, Council Members Bullock, Pinkett, Cohen, Reisinger, Stokes, Middleton, Schleifer, Henry, and Costello.

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; create certain exceptions and exemptions; and generally relating to the provision of City support to nonprofit events.

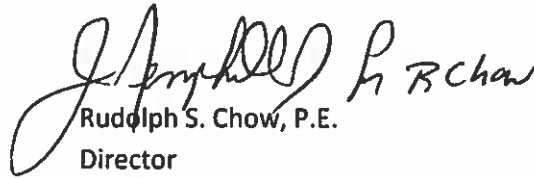
The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Solid Waste, provides support services for special events in the form of trash and recycling containers, collection of trash and recycling, and general cleanup of impacted areas which, depending on the size and duration of the event, could require multiple trash 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. A standard fee for unit of service is used to determine the amount billed which is attached to the Application for City Services and Equipment.

Special events may be City-sponsored or privately-sponsored by a community association, nonprofit organization, or profit-making entity. 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 FY 2017 year, the Bureau of Solid Waste provided cleaning and disposal services for 41 special events (this number does not include all of the small neighborhood block parties that request a trash pickup). Of those 41 events, eight were City-sponsored and therefore not billable. The services for the City-sponsored events totaled \$38,660.26. The remaining 33 events are considered community or organization special events, with incurred costs for Solid Waste of \$154,567.76. In attempting to apply the 50% discount as proposed in City Council Bill 17-0144, it is estimated that approximately \$85,373.75 in FY 2017 incurred costs would have been eligible for the discount, meaning that half of that amount, or \$42,686.88, would have been recoverable. Should the legislation achieve its intent to lower costs for community and nonprofit events and thus encourage events to be held, the costs incurred from these events would be expected to increase in the future. Accommodating for some unknown loss of service cost recovery would have to be absorbed by the Bureau of Solid Waste within its budget during that operational year.

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The Department of Public Works understands the intent of City Council Bill 17-0144, but cautions that as non-recoverable 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.


Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC/MMC