

Andrew Klein

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew W. Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall (396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill No. 12-0155 – Stormwater Remediation Fees

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

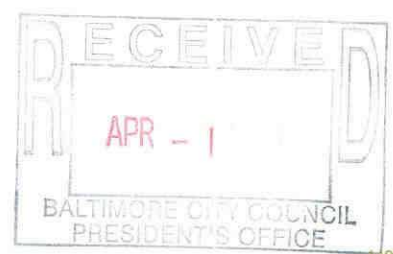
DATE: April 1, 2013

Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
C/O Karen Randle
Room 409, City Hall

City Council Bill 12-0155 is to impose a stormwater remediation fee to fund the costs of the City's stormwater management system; provide for the setting of rates and calculation of the fee and for the establishment of a system of credits; provide for the collection and enforcement of the fee; specify the uses to which the proceeds of the fee may be expended; specify the accounting and expenditure system for the stormwater utility; define certain terms; prohibit certain conduct; impose certain penalties; provide for a special effective date; and generally relating to fees for stormwater management. Under the proposed ordinance, all properties outside of the right-of-way (public streets) will be charged a stormwater fee.

City Council Bill 12-1055 also provides the necessary financial structure for supporting the stormwater utility as defined in the voter-approved Charter amendment:

- Fee levels are set by the Board of Estimates.
- Revenues from the stormwater remediation fee would pay for a defined set of activities: watershed and stream restoration projects, street sweeping, replacing and repairing aging infrastructure, maintaining and improving the storm drainage system and other steps to reduce polluted runoff from streets, parking lots and buildings.
- The fund must be financially self-sustaining and operate without profit or loss to other funds of the City.
- The stormwater remediation fee would be applied to the quarterly water bill, with provision for credits and hardship exemptions.
- The collections process would be managed by the Department of Finance. All bills for stormwater remediation fees shall be paid within thirty days after they have been submitted and are subject to the same interest rates and penalties for late or nonpayment as provided for charges for supplying water. The fees are lienable, and the Director of Finance may adopt rules and regulations necessary or proper to fully enforce and collect the charges imposed under this bill.
- The bill includes language enabling the City to loan money to the fund, in an amount not to exceed the equivalent of sixty day cash-working-capital requirement. The language is identical to provisions in the enabling legislation for the Water and Wastewater utilities.



Baltimore's proposed stormwater remediation fee will be based on the amount of a property's impervious area. Impervious area has a direct impact on the quantity of water handled by the City's drainage system and on the amount of pollutants that are washed into our waterways. The proposed fee has a three-tiered flat rate structure for single-family residential (SFR) parcels based on impervious area. All non-SFR properties, such as Commercial and Industrial properties, will be charged a minimum of one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

The provisions of this legislation meet the requirements of State law as well as the Charter amendment that established the enterprise fund. The Finance Department supports Council Bill 12-0155.

cc: Harry E. Black
Angela Gibson
William Voorhees