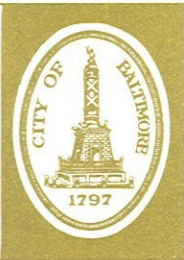


*Andrew Klein*

<b>FROM</b>	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 # 09-0273

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



**TO** The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
Room 400, City Hall

DATE: February 26, 2009

Attention: Karen Randle

As proposed City Council Bill # 09-0273 would impose an annual fee for establishing and maintaining passenger loading zones and freight loading zones; and correct, clarify, and conform related provisions governing loading zones.

The bill sets a \$1,000 annual fee for establishing a loading zone and maintaining the appropriate signs for each parking space or portion of a parking space that is displaced by the loading zone.

The current cost to install a sign is \$65.00, including personnel and material costs. The Finance Department does not have data on how many passenger loading and freight/truck loading zones exist in the City. The vast majority of them were established before the Parking Authority came into being. The Department of Transportation is currently conduct a citywide sign inventory but will be completed in 2011. Thus, it is difficult to estimate revenues that can be generated and operating costs that would incur.

The Finance Department believes that a reasonable fee structure will help in better utilization and management of parking spaces and reduce operating expenses for the installation and maintenance of signs as well. However, the \$1,000 annual fee may result in businesses abandoning loading spaces and use double parking or take spaces at meters instead, which will create further parking problems. In addition, the bill is not clear on fee structures, such as who should pay at what proportion, in areas where current loading zones are installed to serve multiple businesses within the same block.

The Finance Department recommends revisiting the fee structure.

Cc: Edward J. Gallagher  
Angela Gibson

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