



Commission on Sustainability  
Office of Sustainability  
417 East Fayette Street, Eighth Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**Re: City Council Bill # 08-0060, Plastic Bag Reduction**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 11, 2008

Dear Honorable President and Council Members:

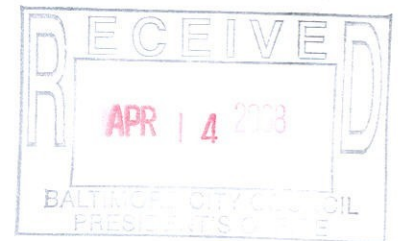
City Council Bill # 08-0060 would prohibit retail establishments with 11 or more other stores and gross annual sales of at least \$500,000 from providing customers with plastic bags. Covered establishments would be allowed to provide customers recyclable paper bags or reusable bags. The bills states that the Sustainability Coordinator may adopt rules and regulations to carry out end enforce the law. Violation fines for first, second, and third offenses would be \$250, \$500, and \$1,000, respectively.

The Commission on Sustainability (Commission) defers comment on this bill. The Commission was sworn-in by Mayor Dixon on April 2, 2008 and will convene its first official meeting on April 22, 2008. As the Commission has yet to meet, any response to City Council Bill # 08-0060 would be premature. The Commission anticipates reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation after having made a sufficient amount of progress in developing the larger Baltimore Sustainability Plan recommendations, including adequate public input on major environmental issues. The planning process will take six months and the Commission expects to present a draft plan to the Planning Commission in October.

Regards,



Cheryl Casciani  
Chair, Commission on Sustainability



*Comments*