



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE, INC.

217 North Charles Street • Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21201-4101

March 1, 2013

The Hon. President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: CB 13-0186 – Soliciting - Prohibited Places**

Dear President Young and Members of the Council:

Downtown Partnership supports the enforcement of laws directed at solicitation and aggressive solicitation and has worked with the Council previously to bring the existing statutes up to their current strength, including provisions that ban aggressive panhandling.

CB 13-0186 would amend Article 19 of the Police Ordinances, Subtitle 47, as it relates to soliciting and aggressive soliciting. Section 47-4(4) of the ordinance currently makes it illegal to solicit "from any operator or occupant of a motor vehicle that is in traffic on a public street, whether in exchange for cleaning the vehicle's windows or otherwise." It is not clear that CB 13-0186 significantly alters this existing language.

If the City Council and the Police Department are seeking to clarify existing regulations and increase the likelihood of enforcement, Downtown Partnership respectfully suggests the Council consider enhancing the provisions that address solicitation to "captive audiences." Section 47-4(2) currently forbids solicitation "in any public transportation vehicle or at any bus, train, light rail, or subway station or stop" because a person in this circumstance is unable to avoid the solicitor. In a similar vein, Downtown Partnership would like to propose amendment of this definition to ban solicitations "*while the person being solicited is: (a) at a parking kiosk machine or meter; (b) standing in line at a commercial establishment, theater, sporting venue, or government office; or (c) engaging in outdoor dining, whether as part of a licensed outdoor dining establishment or in the public right of way.*"

As the Council considers the clarifying amendments proposed by CB 13-0186, Downtown Partnership respectfully suggests adoption of the above language. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kirby Fowler, President

cc: Hon. William H. Cole IV  
Ms. Angela Gibson

