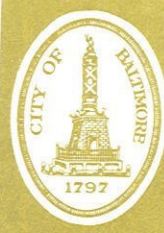


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 10-0504		

TO

DATE: March 4, 2011

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 10-0504 introduced by Council Members Clarke, Henry, Stokes, Curran, and Welch.

The purpose of the Bill is to allow residential properties to make use of an exception to City sewer service charges currently available to commercial and industrial customers. Article 25 Subtitle 13 of the Baltimore City Code prescribes the manner in which sewer service charges are applied to customers receiving City sewer service. The sewer charges are based on the amount of water supplied to a particular property as recorded by a City-approved water meter, multiplied by the rate periodically set for sewer service as adopted and established annually by the Board of Estimates.

City Council Bill 10-0504, if approved, would alter an exception to the City sewer charge available to commercial and industrial customers by making all customers eligible to receive the exception if they have City sewer service. The exception noted in § 13-4 was to address commercial or industrial customers whose usage of metered water was redirected either to a storm drain (e.g. cooling water, under a storm drain discharge permit issued by the City), into product production (e.g. beverage), or to an on-site facility for treatment and discharge to receiving waters under an NPDES permit issued by the State of Maryland.

A letter requesting an exception to the sewer service charges is required to be sent to the Director of Public Works. Approval of such a request requires the installation of a City-approved water meter to gauge the amount of redirected water not to be discharged into the City's sanitary sewer. The meter must be manufacturer-certified to accurately measure the redirected water in cubic feet. The meter must be placed in a location acceptable to the City for ease of reading and for documentation of the redirected use. While the Code allows for the granting of these exceptions to commercial and industrial customers, the City has granted exemptions to residential customers, primarily for properties having large irrigation systems. Any customer holding such an exemption is still required to pay the minimum sewer service charge based on the size of the water meter serving the property. For many residential


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customers, the difference in sewer service charges would be minimal. There are 228 industrial/commercial and 11 residential customers with partial sewer use exemption. The oldest active residential exemption has been in effect since February 1984 and the water is utilized for irrigation system.

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 10-0504.



Alfred H. Foxx
Director

AHF/MMC:pat