



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
Mayor

FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III  
Police Commissioner

September 1, 2010

TO: The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400 City Hall  
**Attn. Karen Randle**

FROM: James H. Green, <sup>JHG</sup> Deputy Chief Legal Counsel  
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 09-0176R-Cyclists Bill of Rights

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 09-0176R-Cyclists Bill of Rights. This legislation proposes to reaffirm support for efforts to improve conditions for cyclists and encourage more widespread awareness about cycling and issues that affect the cycling community.

The bill recitals express the benefits that cycling brings to individuals and the community. The BPD is very aware of the needs and issues concerning the cycling community and joins with other City agencies to support this resolution. Safety issues concerning bicycles were recently highlighted in several City Counsel hearings and in the 2010 General Assembly legislative Session. At the state level these issues resulted in the passing of Senate Bill 51 which is in the below link:

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/sb/sb0051e.pdf>

Maryland law will now require that in order to avoid colliding with a bicycle and when overtaking a bicycle, that a motorist pass at a distance of not less than 3 feet unless certain circumstances exist. This is consistent with increased cycling and awareness by our citizens, including police officers. The BPD stands willing to educate the community about safety issues concerning bicycles and assist in the City's collective efforts in this area. Baltimore has taken the necessary first steps towards embracing the needs of our cycling community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211

