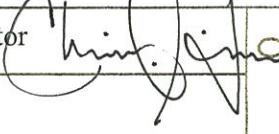



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Christopher Shorter, City Administrator 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Mayor 100 N. Holliday Street, Room Baltimore, MD 21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution #21-0047R Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces		

TO The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

DATE: 8/17/21

Background:

The City Administrators Office (CAO) is herein reporting on City Council Resolution #21-0047R, Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces. This resolution calls on the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the Comptroller, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces.

City Council Resolution #21-0047R additionally calls to consolidate all mowing operations to a single City agency in order to perform these operations with greater efficiency.

Conclusions:

The Office of the City Administrator aims to assist City agencies with the ability to perform duties efficiently and collaboratively. While the efforts to consolidate mowing operations under fewer agencies appears simple, the size, typology, and ownership of the different lots across the City make this a complex and difficult task. The CAO has held regular meetings with the portfolio of agencies that conduct mowing. The purpose of these meetings was to explore the use of technology and review the procurement practices in order to make these operations more efficient. In addition, we are revamping the City's quality assurance practices to ensure accountability for both the City's mowing teams and external vendors. Our goal is for all agencies responsible for grounds maintenance to have a reliable, predictable, and comprehensive grounds maintenance program for both vacant lots and other public green spaces. After review of Resolution #21-0047R, the Office of the City Administrator submits a neutral response, and plans to attend the hearing for this resolution.