



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

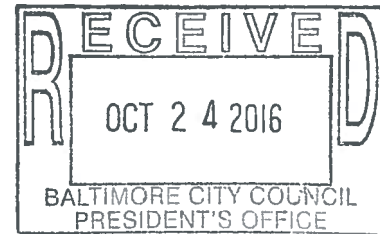


Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

Kevin Davis
Police Commissioner

October 25, 2016

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



Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 16-0728
Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 16-0728. This legislation requires that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event. As drafted, this legislation would result in a significant loss of revenue to the Department for services provided. For this reason, the Department is *opposed* to this legislation.

The Department is called upon to provide security and assist with traffic management at a very large number of events each year. The table below reflects the number of reimbursable special events staffed each year, the costs reimbursed to the Department, the number of officers used, and number of hours worked. The table also demonstrates the fiscal impact of a 50% discount for BPD's services. Although BPD does not specifically track whether each event organizer is a nonprofit, virtually all of these events are indeed organized by nonprofits. Included among the special events are races, festivals, block parties, concerts, and parades.

	Number of Events	Reimbursed Costs	Officers	Hours	Revenue Lost with 50% Discount
FY2014	73	\$401,042.10	1,376	8,442	\$200,521.05
FY2015	125	\$714,523.84	2,549	15,479	\$357,261.92
FY2016	111	\$624,407.17	2,412	12,967	\$312,203.59

As demonstrated by the table, a 50% discount for services rendered for these events would have a substantial fiscal impact on the Department. Given that BPD has not been budgeted with funds to compensate for these losses, we must oppose the bill. Additionally, the above numbers do not reflect the fact that larger scale events necessitating 100+ officers often require the Department to pay overtime to backfill for officers detailed to the event.

By and large, these events are enormously beneficial to the City, often showcasing the City in its best light, creating a positive atmosphere, and driving economic activity. As such, it is of paramount importance that the Department not be hampered in its ability to facilitate the events in a safe manner. Providing a 50% discount for these services without providing additional funding would be a significant obstacle in safely facilitating these events.

opposed

Despite the Department's objections to the revenue loss, we do understand the intent of the legislation. We acknowledge that smaller, community-based nonprofits sometimes do not have the resources to reimburse BPD for events they sponsor. Therefore, if this legislation moves forward, the Department recommends an amendment to apply the discount only to smaller events that require a small number of officers (under 10, for example). The Department also notes that many of the festivals, races, and concerts for which BPD provides coverage charge an admission or registration fee. These fees are designed to cover the costs of the event, including security. Therefore, the Department also recommends an amendment to not apply the discount to events that charge event participants or attendees a fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Department looks forward to working with the City Council on this matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew G. Vetter
Chief of Staff