



SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: June 2, 2009

Re: **City Council Bill 09-0209 Paper Bags - Surcharge**

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0208, which was introduced for the purpose of imposing a surcharge on certain bags provided by dealers to customers; defining certain terms; providing for the collection and remittance of the surcharge; requiring certain reports; prohibiting certain conduct; imposing certain civil and criminal penalties.

City Council Bill 08-0209, if enacted, would impose a 25-cent surcharge on the use of each paper bags provided to customers of retailers such as supermarkets and convenience stores. The bill provides exceptions to the surcharge if a bag is used solely to contain fresh produce, fish, meats, or dairy. The Department of Finance would be empowered to collect the per bag surcharge from the retailer or dealer.

According to the Finance Department's report on City Council Bill 08-0209, several other cities already enacted or are proposing a paper bag surcharge. Accordingly, and in furtherance of the goal of sustainability, the Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of the City Council Bill 08-0209.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Ms. Diane Hutchins
Mr. Andrew Frank

