



BALTIMORE HOUSING

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: May 27, 2008

Re: City Council Bill 08-0096 Public Parks, Squares, etc. - Closure Requirements

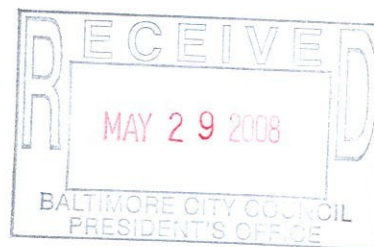
The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0096, which was introduced for the purpose of requiring City Council approval before a public park, square, or recreational facility may be closed for longer than a certain period; providing for certain exceptions; and generally relating to the public's right of access to public parks, squares, and recreational facilities.

The proposed legislation would prohibit any park, public square or recreational facility operated by the Department of Recreation and Parks from being closed to the public for 72 consecutive hours or more without express approval of the City Council. This prohibition appears to conflict with City Charter provisions that invest regulatory and enforcement authority for public parks and squares with the Director of Recreation and Parks. However, DHCD believes that is essential that the permitting process for any park events include specific procedures to provide communities with sufficient prior notification. An improved notification process will likely resolve future confusion or concern regarding potential park closures.

The Department of Housing and Community Development, therefore, regretfully cannot support the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0096.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard



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