


FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 10-0524		

DATE: June 18, 2010

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall


I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 10-0524 introduced by Council members Conaway, Middleton, and Welch.

The purpose of the Bill is to repeal the maximum-size restriction for campaign signs erected in residential areas.

Article 19 of the Baltimore City Code governs the timing and placement of campaign signs. Candidates seeking elected public office may post campaign signs on the exterior of structures or in yards in Residential and Office-Residential Zoning Districts no earlier than the last day on which a candidacy must be withdrawn. The signs are to be confined within private property and may not obstruct the vision of motor vehicle operators. The Police Commissioner or his agent may require a sign to be relocated for public safety, sight-line, or other reasons. Campaign signs must be removed within 30 days after a primary election by unsuccessful candidates, and within 30 days after a general election by all candidates.

Ordinance 07-430 established a maximum size of 16 square feet for any campaign sign erected in a residential area [Article 19 § 46-3(a)]. No size restriction exists for non-residential areas. Violations of this size requirement may result in issuance of an environmental citation, a civil citation, or in a misdemeanor charge. A penalty of \$100 may be applied for each offense, and each day that a violation continues is considered a separate offense. City Council Bill 10-0524 would repeal the maximum size restriction.

The Department of Public Works is not aware of any difficulties surrounding the campaign sign size restriction. Signs larger than 16 square feet may make it difficult to comply with obstruction issues in some neighborhoods, particularly rowhouse communities. However, since the Department of Public Works does not have an enforcement or other role in this issue, the Department defers to the Police Department and the Environmental Control Board on City Council Bill 10-0524.


 David E. Scott, P.E.
 Director

Refers to Police + ECB

DES/MMC:pat

