



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 28, 2010

Re: **City Council Bill 10-0524 - Campaign Signs in Residential Areas -
Repeal of Maximum-Size Restriction**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0524, which was introduced for the purpose of repealing the maximum-size restriction for campaign signs erected in residential areas. In May 2007, the City Council adopted City Council Bill 06-0515 (Ordinance 07-0430) which placed a maximum size restriction of 16 square feet for any campaign sign placed in a residential area. If approved, City Council Bill 10-0524 would remove this restriction.

The Department of Housing and Community Development concurs with our colleagues at the Department of Public Works that a sign exceeding 16 square feet might prove excessive for many row house yards and therefore potentially obstruct sight lines. Further, in light of the Law Department's reference to recent court decisions that overturned durational limits for campaign signs, DHCD fears that large campaign signs left in a residential yard for indefinite periods of time are almost certain to provoke complaints from neighboring homeowners.

While the Department of Housing and Community Development has concerns about the effect of this proposed ordinance, we, however, defer to the preference of the City Council as to the adoption of City Council Bill 10-0524.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Diane Hutchins, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, *Deputy Mayor*



Comments

