

F R O M	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 14-0352		

TO

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

June 13, 2014

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 14-0352, Immobilization of Vehicles - Booting Fee, which is for authorizing a change in the fee charged for the release of an immobilized vehicle from \$100 to \$150.


The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this bill.

The reason for this proposed fee increase is to bring booting operations back in the black. Currently, citizens pay a fee of \$100 when they remove a boot from their vehicle, and that \$100 payment is paid directly to the city's boot vendor, Paylock, per the City's existing contract with them. However, about one out of every four booted vehicles also results in a tow to the City's yard at Pulaski, either because the boot remained on the vehicle for several days, because the vehicle remained in a tow-away zone and required more immediate relocation, or because the citizen owed more than \$1,000 to the City in fines. When this happens, the vehicle is towed to the City's tow yard, and the citizen is charged for towing, storage and administrative fees but not the additional boot fee. However, the City still must pay the vendor \$50 when a vehicle is booted but then subsequently towed. Therefore, the City loses approximately \$50 for every four vehicles it boots. This results in a loss of approximately \$92,000 annually.

Increasing the boot fee to \$150 from \$100 would resolve this loss, and additionally earn the city approximately \$185,000 a year. It is important to note that DOT only boots the vehicles of citizens who have three or more overdue citations owed to the City; therefore, such immobilization can easily be avoided.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,


William M. Johnson
Director

WMJ/BZ



F