

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WANDA S. DURDEN, Acting Director
DR. RALPH W.E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-6132

June 26, 2008

Honorable President Stephanie Rawlings Blake
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 08-0049**
City Trees – Protective Measures

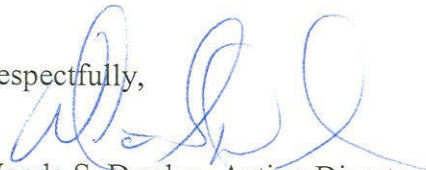
Dear President Rawlings Blake:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed City Council Bill No. 08-0049 which is for the purpose of extending certain laws for the protection of trees along public ways to apply also to trees in parks, squares, and other public places; prohibiting excessive or unnecessary cutting, trimming, or pruning of public trees; authorizing the City Arborist to adjudicate complaints of unauthorized or improper treatment of public trees and to impose civil penalties and remedies for violations; redefining certain terms; increasing certain criminal penalties; conforming agency references to reflect reallocations established by prior enactments; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related language; and generally relating to trees, shrubs, and other plants in the public ways and in the parks, squares, and other public places of the City.

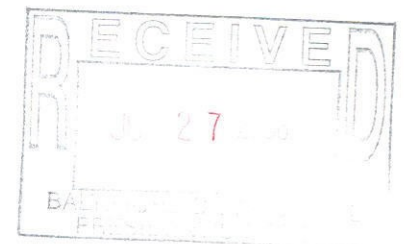
A working group consisting of representatives from the Environmental Control Board, Departments of Public Works, Transportation and Recreation and Parks worked to develop this proposed legislation into a bill that will complement the Mayor's Cleaner/Greener Initiatives as well as the tree canopy goal. The Department of Recreation and Parks concurs with the recommended amendments.

Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks supports Council Bill #08-0049 with recommended amendments.

Respectfully,


Wanda S. Durden, Acting Director
WSD/VSO

cc: Angela Gibson, Legislative Liaison to the City Council



F/A