

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

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

May 27, 2008

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

RE: City Council Bill #08-0096.
Public Parks, Squares, etc. – Closure Requirements

Dear President Rawlings-Blake;

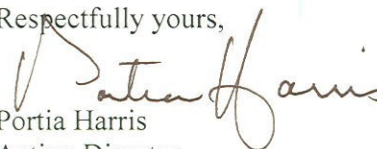
The Department of Recreation and Parks does not support City Council Bill 08-0096. This bill requests City Council approval before a public park, square or recreational facility may be closed for longer than a specified period; providing for certain exceptions and generally relating to the public's right of access to public parks and recreational facilities.

The Department of Recreation and Parks understands the concerns that resulted in the introduction of proposed legislation ; however, we feel that these issues are best addressed through an enhanced notification system within our current permitting process. Enhanced communication with the communities affected by Recreation and Parks permitted events will provide the opportunity for issues to be addressed. We will make it standard procedure that the Council President, as well as the Councilmen for the impacted districts, be included in the notification process.

The Director the Department of Recreation and Parks, via the City Charter, holds the responsibility to adapt and enforce the rules and regulations for the use of park land and property. Therefore, we feel the current permitting process with enhanced notification to the public and members of the city Council will adequately address the concerns of the citizens of Baltimore City.

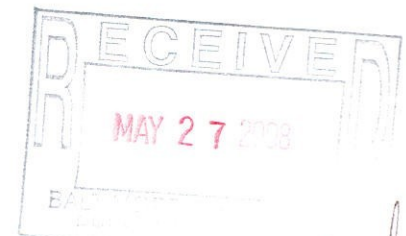
The Department of Recreation and Parks, therefore, does not support City Council Bill 08-0096.

Respectfully yours,


Portia Harris
Acting Director

PH/VSO:bmw

Cc: Angela Gibson, Legislative Liaison to the City Council



Unfair