



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 1, 2011



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: *JH*
James H. Green, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 11-0671-Illegal Dumping-Penalties-Enforcement

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed and supports the adoption of City Council Bill No. 11-0671-Illegal Dumping-Penalties-Enforcement which proposes to increase penalties for illegal waste disposal, clarify certain provisions, and to impose liability for the cleanup or damage caused by those who illegally dump or dispose of material on City property.

In June 2009, Baltimore Housing assumed responsibility for the investigations and enforcement of illegal dumping in Baltimore. Prior to the formation of their Special Investigations Unit, the BPD worked jointly with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to form the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit. It was determined that these functions were better handled by Baltimore Housing for consistent enforcement and to streamline investigative resources. The BPD continues to support the enforcement efforts as needed especially in the utilization of patrol and special investigations resources. We are also working jointly to develop appropriate roll-call training in this area as many calls for illegal dumping are received via 911 commutations.

Illegal dumping remains a serious problem in Baltimore and creates both a sanitary and public safety hazard. The increases in penalties and the liability for clean up can be a very effective enforcement tool against the persons who violate this law and will also serve as a deterrent to this type of crime. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

