



SHEILA DIXON  
Mayor

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 10, 2008



FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III  
Police Commissioner

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

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

RE: City Council Resolution No. 08-0063-Public Information Campaign-"Dirt  
Bikes"-Unregistered Motorcycles and Similar Vehicles

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) is pleased to address City Council Resolution No. 08-0063-Public Information Campaign-"Dirt Bikes"-Unregistered Motorcycles and Similar Vehicles. The resolution requests that the BPD and the Department of Transportation provide information to inform Baltimore City residents what the current laws and penalties are pertaining to operation of these vehicles.

As the resolution discusses, the BPD is faced with the many issues surrounding the illegal riding of "dirt bikes" in Baltimore. Many citizens are threatened by the operators of these vehicles who fail to follow any rules of the road and zoom in and out of traffic on the city streets. There is a very serious public and personal safety risk to all citizens including the riders posed by the illegal operation of these vehicles. The BPD officers are left with few options other than arrest of the operator and are not permitted to chase the riders because of the associated dangers. There are a number of state laws governing the operation of these vehicles and several references in the Baltimore City Code covering this topic. While it is recognized that there are recreational uses for these vehicles outside of Baltimore City, it is consistent that our citizens are informed which of these vehicles are legal and which are not, and if legal how they should be properly secured.

The BPD welcomes the opportunity to share additional information with the Council on this issue. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Frederick H. Bealefeld III, Police Commissioner, BPD  
Ronald Levitan, Acting Chief of Legal Affairs, BPD  
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Sheryl Goldstein, MOCJ

*Comments*

