


FROM	NAME & TITLE	DOUGLAS B. McCOACH III, DIRECTOR <i>DBM</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0108/CHARTER AMENDMENT – DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES		

DATE: June 2, 2008

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of May 29, 2008 the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0108, for the purpose of establishing a Department of General Services among the Executive Departments; providing for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services; transferring certain powers and duties from the Department of Public Works to the Department of General Services; repealing certain obsolete provisions; requiring obstructions to the work of the Department of Transportation or the Department of General Services to be removed; conforming, correcting, and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #08-0108 and adopted the following resolution, nine members being present (nine in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0108 be passed by the City Council.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Gary W. Cole, Deputy Director at 410-396-8337.

DBM/GWC/tl

Attachments

cc:

- Mr. Andy Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Demuane Millard, Mayor's Office
- Mr. Tom Stosur, Mayor's Office
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable "Rikki" Spector, City Council Commission Representative
- Mr. Donald Small, Zoning Enforcement
- Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
- Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
- Ms. Deepa Bhattacharyya, Law Department
- Ms. Jennifer Coates, Councilmanic Services
- Mr. David Scott, Director of DPW

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PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

May 29, 2008

REQUEST: City Council Bill #08-0108/Charter Amendment – Department of General Services

For the purpose of establishing a Department of General Services among the Executive Departments; providing for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services; transferring certain powers and duties from the Department of Public Works to the Department of General Services; repealing certain obsolete provisions; requiring obstructions to the work of the Department of Transportation or the Department of General Services to be removed; conforming, correcting, and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, subject to the requirements of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

STAFF: Eric Tiso

PETITIONER: The Administration (Department of Public Works)

ANALYSIS

Overview: As a result of ongoing efficiency studies, it has been determined that the Bureau of General Services, which today is a part of the Department of Public Works (DPW) should be promoted within the City's organizational chart and to be created as a new Executive Department. The Director of the newly created Department of General Services (DGS) would be a cabinet-level officer. In order to accomplish this change, the Charter of Baltimore City and the Baltimore City Code need to be amended. Amendments required generally transfer powers and duties from DPW to the new DGS, and clarify references in other sections. Other changes assign responsibilities or correct references in sections pertaining to the Departments of Education, Planning, and Transportation. It is the intention of the legislation to maximize the efficiency of City activities related to operations and maintenance. This reorganization will centralize City function resulting in cost benefits to the City.

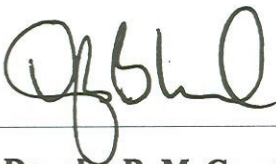
Bill Effects:

Specifically, the bill will cause the following changes to the Baltimore City Charter, Article VII:

- §30 & 31: Clarifies DPW's scope regarding supervision, construction, maintenance, and repair, as provided specifically in the Charter;
- §32 through §36: deleted, these functions were transferred in prior actions;
- §37: Corrected;
- §38 through §40: deleted, to be transferred to DGS;
- §41: Clarifies powers of DPW to correct physical obstructions to their work;
- §42: Corrected phraseology;
- §43 through §46: deleted.
- §61: Removes the requirement that plans and specifications for school buildings, including changes, are submitted to the Director of Public Works for approval;
- §78: Corrected phraseology and reference to DGS;
- §85: Corrected phraseology and reference to the Department of Transportation (DOT);
- §116: Corrected references to DGS;
- Proposes a new §116A, which grants powers to DOT to correct physical obstructions to their work;
- Proposes new §130 through §138, creating the DGS, establishing its Director and qualifications, term of appointment, salary, the powers and duties of the department, and granting the power to correct physical obstructions to its work;

Staff recommends approval of this bill, subject to the requirements of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

A copy of this bill was forwarded to 28 umbrella community organizations, as well as the Departments of Recreation and Parks, Transportation, Public Works, the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director