

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Bill Henry, Comptroller of Baltimore City	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	21-0047R - Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400

August 13, 2021

Position: Support

The Comptroller’s office is reporting on 21-0047R - Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces. The purpose of this resolution is to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces; and recommending to the Administration that a single City agency be charged with the responsibility for mowing all City-owned lots, parcels, parks, and green spaces.

Background

The Department of Real Estate (DoRE), under the office of the Comptroller, is responsible for approximately 1300 City-owned parcels. These “legacy lots” were purchased by the City of Baltimore through the tax sale process in the 1980s and 1990s. At that time the City was acquiring significant numbers of tax sale properties. Some of these properties are developed but the majority are vacant lots.

The DoRE does not have a budget for vacant lot maintenance. As a result, vacant lot maintenance calls are most often referred to other agencies of the City who may have the capacity to assist with tree removals and other maintenance issues. Mowing in particular is referred to the Department of Public Works (DPW) who has worked with DoRE to place many of these lots on a proactive mowing list.

Conclusion

The Department of Real Estate supports the resolution’s goal to centralize mowing and maintenance responsibilities for City-owned properties under a single City agency.

For the reasons stated above, the Comptroller’s Office supports 21-0047R.