



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

May 18, 2012

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

FROM: James H. Green, ^{JHG} Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 12-0050-Sales to Minors in Proximity to Liquor
Store



The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 12-0050-Sales to Minors in Proximity to Liquor Store. The proposed legislation would prohibit persons in close proximity to a liquor store from selling any food, goods, wares, or merchandise to any person under the age of 21 and also seeks to amend certain provisions of the existing statute.

The Department has discussed the legislation with the sponsor and understands his concerns about the potential long-term effects of the early exposure of alcohol to minors. The General Assembly this year restricted the hours in certain locations that liquor stores can sell alcohol in Baltimore City in an attempt to deal with some of the concerns raised by this legislation. These issues warrant a broad discussion among City agencies and our communities.

The concept of increased oversight for businesses which sell alcohol is necessary especially as it relates to underage sales. Many businesses are vigilant in their enforcement of State and City laws pertaining to the underage sale or purchase of alcohol. There are however businesses throughout the City which do allow these types of violations and as a result create additional problems for our neighborhoods. It remains the business' responsibility to provide a safe environment for its customers and the surrounding community. Although few overall police resources are dedicated to underage violations, it is important to develop a coordinated enforcement strategy/response with the Liquor Board to these types of issues.

The BPD stands willing to work with the Council to assist in the City's collective efforts in this area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Councilman Nick Mosby
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison