

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 527
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0063

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: March 20, 2008

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

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill No. 08-0063.

Property Maintenance – Responsibilities of City as Owner or Operator

For the purpose of expressly restating and reaffirming the responsibilities of the City for the repair and maintenance of properties owned or operated by it; clarifying certain definitions; requiring certain Departments to submit to the Mayor and the City Council a schedule for bringing all city-owned or operated properties “to code” within a certain period and to provide periodic progress reports; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the scope and applicability of the Building, Fire and Related Codes of Baltimore City.

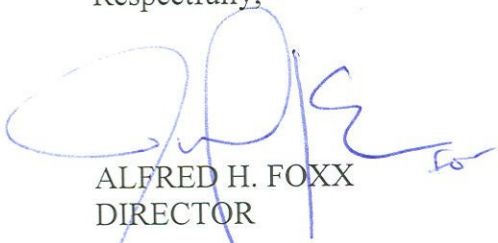
City Council Bill O8-0063 restates the responsibilities of the City for the repair and maintenance of City owned properties. In most cases, the Department of Transportation repairs property other than its own. DOT initiates action upon request of the responsible agency – that agency that has designated control of a particular building. The responsible City agency is billed for the work. As a matter of general policy, occupied residences where persons have requested footways repair or replacement are given priority status by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Typically, the Department of Transportation’s Footways section receives service requests via telephone. More often than not, the person requesting the inspection is reporting a neighboring property. After the complaint is logged in, an inspector is assigned. The inspector schedules a time, visits the site and the immediate one block area. The inspector notes all the sidewalks, curbs and driveways in the block that need to be repaired and sends notices to the effected property owners. Property owners can either have the city do the repair, hire a private party or do the repair themselves. In cases where certain properties in the block are vacant, the last owner of record is sought. If the owner cannot be located, the work is done and a bill is sent to the Department of Finance for collection. All sidewalk complaints, vacant or otherwise, that are forwarded to the footways section are scheduled for inspection and if found wanting, are added to the sidewalk repair list.

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BALTIMORE CITY PRESIDENT
Refer to HAD + Finance

In an effort to improve Baltimore's inventory of sidewalks, DOT will introduce an amplified program of footway repair and replacement in FY 2009. In keeping with the Mayor's credo of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Healthier Baltimore, the Department of Transportation continues to explore creative ways to do more with less. We have no objection to the intent of this bill. We defer, however, to the more immediately effected agencies, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Finance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. H. Foxx', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR

AHF/WD:zs

cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson
Mr. Anthony P. Wallnofer, Jr.
Mr. Bill Driscoll
Mr. Jamie Kendrick

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