TO

DATE: July 13, 2010

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 Resolution No. 10-0213R introduced by the Council President.

The purpose of the bill is to request the Police Commissioner, the Director of Recreation and Parks, and the Director of Transportation to present a comprehensive report on the effects of illegal dirt bikes on Baltimore City's residential neighborhoods, parks, and transportation system, as well as to ask the Interim Health Commissioner to report on the impact of illegal dirt bike use on the health care system. Council is requesting these agencies to assist with the development of a comprehensive plan to address the persistent problem of illegal dirt bikes in Baltimore City.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) recognizes that the use of illegal dirt bikes poses a significant safety problem on City streets. Dirt bike operators routinely disregard speed limits, stop signs, traffic signals, and lane controls, which poses a significant safety hazard to other motorists and neighborhood residents. In addition, dirt bikes are frequently used on sidewalks, causing pedestrians to dodge the bikes or move into the roadway to avoid them.

The seizure and storage of illegal dirt bikes is an unfunded burden on the City's towing operation. The value of recycled or scrap material does not offset the Department's costs in storage, towing, security and administration. We believe strongly in crushing illegal dirt bikes in order to send a message of deterrence to their operators and to reduce the overall supply.

DOT looks forward to participating in the investigative hearing concerning illegal dirt bikes.
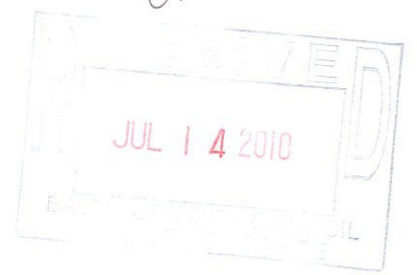
Sincerely,

Frank R Murphy

FOR KHALIL ZAIED
DIRECTOR

KZ/LKS

cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson
    Mr. Jamie Kendrick
    Mr. Frank J. Murphy

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