

*Andrew Kleine*

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410 396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #08-0209 Paper Bags-Surcharge

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



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

DATE: November 26, 2008

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council Bill #08-0209 would impose a 25-cent surcharge on the use of paper bags provided by dealers to customers in certain retail businesses such as supermarkets and convenience stores and require the Finance Department to oversee the collection of the surcharge.

Several other cities have enacted or proposed similar surcharges, primarily on plastic bags. Denver is proposing a 10-cent surcharge on both paper and plastic bags. New York is proposing a 6-cent surcharge on plastic bags. Baltimore City could raise \$1.6 million to \$6.4 million annually from a surcharge on plastic bags based on New York's estimate and factoring in a decrease in bag usage because of the fee. It is unclear how much would be raised by a surcharge on paper bags.

We estimate that annual additional expenditures related to this bill if passed would be \$85,000.

The Finance Department supports this bill's overall goal of moving towards sustainability and reducing the public's reliance on non-eco-friendly paper bags; we also note the increased financial burden the bill will place on City residents and businesses.

cc: Edward J. Gallagher  
Angela Gibson

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*F. Comment*

