

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President City Council  
FROM: Peter Little, Executive Director  
DATE: July 1, 2009  
RE: Council Bill 09-0336



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 09-0336 introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Middleton, D'Adamo, Kraft, Branch, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Conaway, Cole. This ordinance is for the purpose of setting a limit on the amount of the penalty imposed for nonpayment of a citation issued for certain parking, stopping, standing, and related offenses; and generally relating to fines, penalties, and procedures for certain offenses.

The Parking Authority of Baltimore City has reviewed City Council Bill 09-0336 and, although we understand and sympathize with the intent of the Bill, we have concerns about its possible unintended consequences should it be enacted. We do understand that it may seem unfair and even, perhaps, ridiculous that penalties for non-payment of a parking fine can cause the cost of the fine and penalties to balloon to many, many times the original fine cost.

However, it is important to the integrity of the parking management system that drivers who violate parking ordinances in Baltimore know that they cannot "get away with" such behaviors and that pressure will steadily mount on them, either through accumulating monetary penalties and/or other means (i.e. suspension of the right to re-register the vehicle and, possibly, other vehicles owned by the driver; suspension of the right to renew a driver's license; liens placed on vehicles; etc.), to resolve the citation in a timely manner through payment of the fine or through the parking citation adjudication process. It is our concern that, if there is not this increasing pressure on drivers who receive citations to resolve the matter, then the whole purpose of parking citations – which is to enforce the parking management system by discouraging law breaking – will be diminished, parking ordinances will be ignored, and parking management plans will fail. We will make ourselves available to help craft legislation that will honor the intent of City Council Bill 09-0336 while simultaneously bolstering parking management policies.

Based on the comments above, the Parking Authority does not support passage of City Council Bill 09-0336, but would welcome the opportunity to assist with redrafting the Bill.



*Unfavorable*