


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0108		

DATE: May 28, 2008

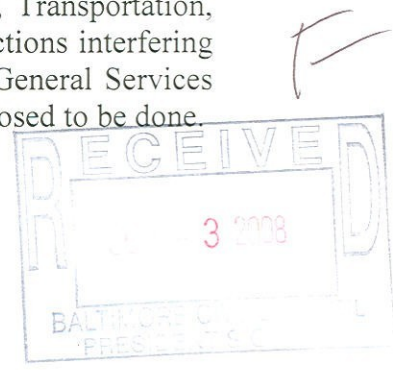
TO
 The Honorable President and Members
 of the Baltimore City Council
 c/o Karen Randle
 Room 400 City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0108 introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake on behalf of the Administration (Department of Public Works).

The purpose of the Bill is to establish a Department of General Services among the Executive Departments; provide for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services; transfer certain powers and duties from the Department of Public Works to the Department of General Services; repeal certain obsolete provisions; require obstructions to the work of the Department of Transportation or the Department of General Services to be removed; conform, correct, and clarify related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

This bill outlines the Administration's decision to create a new department to address interagency services more efficiently and to stress greater importance on the maintenance of City buildings and management of the City's fleet. Making this adjustment requires changes to the Baltimore City Charter and to the Code. City Council Bill 08-0108, if approved, would allow qualified City voters to consider adopting or rejecting the creation of a Department of General Services.

The functions of the new agency will include care and management of the City's buildings, fleet, and equipment; identification of real property, street naming, street numbers, maintaining the official plats and records; ordinances for opening and closing rights-of-way; and issuance or denial of certain permits. Other sections of the Charter are adjusted to reflect the transfer of certain private construction powers to the Department of Housing and Community Development (under a previous Charter change and subsequent Ordinance 68-152) and certain transportation, traffic, and lighting powers to the Department of Transportation (2004 Charter change). The Departments of Public Works, Transportation, and General Services would each have the power to correct physical obstructions interfering with the work of the Departments. Upon request, both Public Works and General Services could provide assistance to other agencies in estimating the cost of work proposed to be done.



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We favorably support the Administration's initiatives to streamline interagency services and concur with the amendments put forth by the Department of Public Works.

Respectfully,



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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