



BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCDC

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, *Executive Secretary*

From: Michael Braverman, *Deputy Commissioner*

Date: October 13, 2009

Re: **City Council Bill 09-0141R - Informational Hearing - One PLUS One**

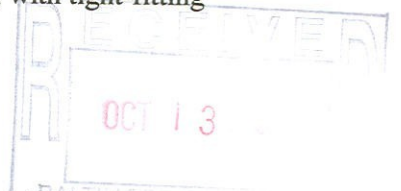
The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 09-0141R, which was introduced for the purpose of requesting the Director and the Bureau Head, Bureau of Solid Waste of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to report to the City Council on the status of the One PLUS One waste collection system, the effectiveness of the new system in keeping the streets and alleys of the City free of debris, and the level of Baltimore City residents' participation in or complaint against One PLUS One; requesting the Director of the Health Department Bureau of Vector Control to report on any change in rodent infestation in Baltimore's neighborhoods since the implementation of One PLUS One; and requesting the DHCD Deputy Commissioner for Permits and Code Enforcement to generate a report on the number of citations resulting from the introduction of the One PLUS One program.

Beginning July 14, 2009, the newly approved One Plus One program became effective. Residents were required to place trash out on one day and recycling on another day of the week, a change from twice a week trash and twice a month recycling collections. Recycling and yard waste volumes continued to be unlimited, but mixed refuse was held to a maximum limit of 96 gallons (three 32-gallon containers). Included in the implementation of the One Plus One program were revisions to outdated collection routes and adjustments to the mixed refuse and recycling collections from a six day a week to a four day a week work schedule.

To support our colleagues in DPW, DHCD Code Enforcement redeployed and focused our resources both on the enforcement of established sanitation code regulations and the education of residents to the changes to collection days. Since the implementation of the program in mid-July, our strategy has been to enforce vigorously provisions of Section 306 of the Property Maintenance Code of Baltimore City. Inspectors focused specifically on the following violations:

- **306.3 No deposit on sidewalks, etc.** No trash, garbage, or debris may be deposited on any sidewalk, alley, or street or on any public or private lot;
- **306.4 Storage receptacles – Required.** Trash, garbage, or debris may not be stored or placed out for collection except in approved storage receptacles; and
- **306.6.1.1 General.** Each storage receptacle must be watertight, with tight-fitting covers and handles.

Comments



- **306.7 Placement for collection.** Storage receptacles placed out on non-collection day.

These regulations were long established before the transition to the One Plus One program and the change in the collection process did not alter a citizen's duty of compliance. However, Code Enforcement was requested to support the new program by redeploying our personnel and stepping up enforcement of these critical sanitation provisions. Consequently, from July 14th through to the date of this memorandum, we have issued 21,670 citations for violations related to sanitation violations. .

Code Enforcement's strategy for the implementation of One Plus One was to identify specific neighborhoods throughout the City for focused enforcement based on the history and pattern of previous sanitation violations and information shared by DPW. In addition to the normal operations of our field inspectors at their various regional offices, two roving patrol teams comprised of eight inspectors each were deployed in the east and west of the City to aid this transition. A rapid deployment team also was formed to reinforce the efforts of the roving teams. The contents of illegally deposited bags were examined in order to identify the origin of the bags and therefore cite the violators. Inspectors then tagged these trash bags with orange stickers to mark areas where enforcement had been conducted and items were ready for removal.. Finally, we have created a new service request order entitled "Solid Waste Bag Pick-Up" which directly notifies DPW crews when a special collection is needed at a specific location.

The Department of Public Works Environmental Crimes Unit was abolished preceding the transition to One Plus One and their duties were transferred to the newly formed Special Investigation Unit (SIU) within the Code Enforcement Legal Section. Since July 14th through to the date of this memorandum, the Unit has: investigated over 500 service request of illegal dumping; issued over 600 citations for dumping violations; issued over 250 citations for other related violations; and initiated criminal charges against eleven individuals.

The Department of Housing and Community Development will provide additional information before the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee on October 21, 2009 in order to report on the progress being made under the One Plus One program.

MB:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Diane Hutchins, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Andrew Frank, *First Deputy Mayor*
Mr. Paul T. Graziano, *Housing Commissioner*
Mr. Eric Booker, *Assistant Commissioner*
Mr. Jason Hessler, *Director, Code Enforcement Legal Section*