

Andrew Klein

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (396-4941)
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #09-0320

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: June 5, 2009

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

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council Bill 09-0320 is for the purpose of setting maximum towing, storage, and related charges that may be imposed on the owners or operators of certain towed vehicles; requiring certain information to be disclosed on a towing service's schedule of charges; increasing certain penalties; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to trespass towing.

Trespass towers are used by private owners to remove vehicles that park on their properties without permission. Trespass towers are regulated by the Tow Board. City towing crews are not involved in such cases.

State Law says that towers cannot charge more than twice the rate used by the local jurisdiction. This Bill is more restrictive than the State Law. It sets a maximum charge to the owner be 150% of the total fees authorized for impound towing under City Code Article 31, Subtitle 31, Part 4, with a ceiling of \$250. The Bill does not preclude the trespass tower from charging additional fees to the property owner or operator. The Bill also requires that towers file with their application for a license a schedule setting forth their proposed charges for towing, storage, and other services incident to towing. Finally, the Bill increases the fine for violating any provision of the subtitle to \$1,000 and/or 180 days of imprisonment.

Since there is no fiscal impact on the City, the Finance Department does not oppose the passage of this bill.

CC: Edward J. Gallagher
Angela Gibson

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Does not oppose

