



SHEILA DIXON  
Mayor

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III  
Police Commissioner

July 2, 2008

TO: The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400 City Hall  
**Attn. Karen Randle**

FROM: James H. Green, <sup>HJE</sup> Deputy Legal Counsel  
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0127-Accident and Disabled-Vehicle Towing

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed and supports City Council Bill No. 08-0127-Accident and Disabled-Vehicle Towing and the proposed amendments.

This legislation is intended to protect the public from predatory towing practices and abuse by authorizing approved towing companies and delineating their responsibilities when called by the BPD. The bill also clarifies the definition of a disabled vehicle and the responsibilities of the BPD when the disabled vehicle is impeding the free flow of traffic or if there is an emergency situation that requires immediate towing of the vehicle. The owner or operator of the disabled vehicle retains discretion to determine the destination to which the vehicle is towed and maintains in most instances, the right to choose the towing company that tows their vehicle. Additionally, the increased penalties provide a strong deterrent for violation of the provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Council on this legislation to address both the concerns of the public and the department.

cc: Frederick H. Bealefeld III, Police Commissioner, BPD  
Ronald Levitan, Acting Chief of Legal Affairs, BPD  
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Sheryl Goldstein, MOCJ

