

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WANDA S. DURDEN, Acting Director  
DR. RALPH W.E. JONES, JR. BUILDING  
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
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June 13, 2008

Honorable President Stephanie Rawlings Blake  
Members of the City Council  
Baltimore City Council  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 08-0063**  
**Property Maintenance – Responsibilities of City as Owner or Operator**

Dear President Rawlings-Blake:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0063, which was introduced for the purpose of expressly restating and reaffirming the responsibilities of the City for the repair and maintenance of properties owned or operated by it; requiring certain Departments to submit to the Mayor and City Council a schedule for bringing all City-owned or –operated properties “to code” within a certain period and to provide periodic progress reports; and generally relating to the scope and applicability of the Building, Fire, and Related Codes of Baltimore City.

The Department of Recreation and Parks is committed to continuously upgrading its parks and recreation facilities through its capital improvement program. The Department is responsible for the operation of more than 150 park building and recreation centers. The majority of the buildings are more than 40 years old. Each building was built to the specifications and requirements of the Building Code at the time of construction. However, as we upgrade our facilities all building code requirements will be met. It would be financially prohibitive to bring all of them in compliance “to code” within 36 months.

The Department of Recreation and Parks respectfully opposes Council Bill #08-0063.

Respectfully,

Wanda S. Durden  
Acting Director

WSD/VSO:bmw

cc: Angela Gibson, Legislative Liaison to the City Council

