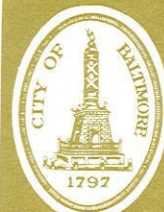


FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR <i>Stole/for T.J.S.</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 TH FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0205/PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION		

TO

DATE: April 7, 2010

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 N. Holliday Street

The Dept of Planning, Office of Sustainability is concerned about the impacts of CB 08-205 as amended and adopted at Second Reader on March 22, 2010.

The amendments proposed in Committee and adopted at second reader create a program that requires registration, monitoring and reporting of all food businesses in Baltimore. This registration and monitoring and reporting, if applied as written, will require the additional hiring of up to 14 staff to complete and operate the program if run according to the legislative directive, adding an additional cost up to \$700,000 to the City.

Instead of requiring the Office of Sustainability to re-create a program that already is functioning within the Health Department, it would be more cost effective to ask the Health Department to manage the permitting section of the legislation during their existing permit review process. To meet the intent of the legislation, while also creating new revenue for the City, the Department of Planning, Baltimore Office of Sustainability suggests the following amendments:

1. Rather than creating a whole new registration and monitoring program for the same stores that the Health Department already inspects and licenses, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability suggests that the task of registering stores be attached to the existing licensing process with a new fee of \$20 per license to cover the costs of administering this new program. This would require amending the language in the bill to assign the Health Department this task, and to change the bill to require an annual registration fee for all businesses.
2. The inspectors that are currently sent to monitor stores for their health permit can also check for compliance with this subtitle when they are at the location. This way there are no additional costs for new inspectors.
3. The Baltimore Office of Sustainability will still be responsible for creating an electronic survey for stores to complete and email quarterly as part of their license/registration with the Health Department. If a store does not comply with reporting requirements, their Health Department permit can be withheld, or fines can be levied as per directed in the legislation. The Health Department would be responsible for levying the fines, since they already have this authority, and the Office of Sustainability does not.



Comments

City Council Bill 08-205

April 7, 2010

Page 2

These changes will create approximately \$80,000 in new revenue, with no added costs to the City, while also assuring that the intent of the legislation is met by educating store owners, citizens and collecting adequate data.

Specific language for the amendments can be provided to you at your request to make these changes.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Beth Strommen, Director Office of Sustainability at 410-396-8360

TJS/WYA/cm

cc: Mr. Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
Ms. Sophie Dagenais, Chief of Staff
Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
Hon. Bill Henry, Council Rep. 4th District
Hon. James Kraft, Council Rep. 1th District
Hon. Mary Pat Clarke, Council Rep. 14th District