



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE, INC.

217 North Charles Street · Suite 100 · Baltimore, MD 21201-4101
T 410.244.1030 · F 410.244.8670 · GoDowntownBaltimore.com

June 7, 2013

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 13-0212 – Change to Grow: 10-Year Plan – Parking Tax

Dear President Young and Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Inc. I would like to request that this letter be added to public record, in addition to the Partnership's letter dated May 2, in which I indicated that the organization was unable to take a position under the stipulated time constraints.

CB 13-0212 amends Article 28, Subtitle 22 of the Baltimore City Code to halt a July 1, 2013 rollback of parking taxes from 20% to 19%. The Partnership does not object to this change; however, I would like to ask the City to be cautious in raising this tax further in future years.

The parking industry provides an important service in Baltimore City, without which the City would not be able to attract businesses and visitors. Parking has been the target of multiple tax increases over the past decade and beyond, and is currently the highest taxed industry by the City. At the same time, parking has not been immune to the economic downturn, and the local industry and individual properties have taken tremendous hits.

Parking is a critical component of a healthy, mixed-use Downtown. As such, the Downtown Partnership would like to lend its support to the Baltimore Parking Association in its request that a moratorium be placed on parking tax increases. The Partnership recommends that this moratorium be 5 years in length. I believe such a moratorium will allow for stabilization of individual parking assets and of the local industry as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on CB 13-0212. Once again, the Downtown Partnership does not object to the Bill, but does urge the City to cap the parking tax for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Kirby Fowler
President

CC: Hon. Carl Stokes, Councilman
Ben Greenwald, Baltimore Parking Association

