

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andy Frank, Real Estate Officer	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Real Estate, Room 304, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	22-0098R - Upkeep and Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Public Green Spaces		

DATE:

TO

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

May 4, 2022

The Department of Real Estate is reporting on City Council Bill #22-0098R, which is for the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Sustainability Coordinator, a representative from the Office of the Comptroller, and the Chief of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to report on the annual cumulative total of calls for service for the upkeep and maintenance of vacant lots and green spaces.

Background

The Department of Real Estate (DoRE), under the office of the Comptroller, is responsible for approximately 1300 City-owned parcels. These “legacy lots” were purchased by the City of Baltimore through the tax sale process in the 1980s and 1990s. At that time the City was acquiring significant numbers of tax sale properties. Some of these properties are developed but the majority are vacant lots.

The DoRE does not have a budget for vacant lot maintenance. As a result, vacant lot maintenance calls are most often referred to other agencies of the City who may have the capacity to assist with tree removals and other maintenance issues. Mowing in particular is referred to the Department of Public Works (DPW) who has worked with DoRE to place many of these lots on a proactive mowing list.

Data

Service requests for DoRE’s lots are managed through Constituent Services and the Department of Real Estate.

Call for Service between January 2021-March 2022	
Mowing	12
Tree Issues	9

All calls for service for DoRE lots made through 311 are directed to maintenance crews. This data is not shared with the DoRE and thus is not tracked internally.

Conclusion

The Department of Real Estate supports the resolution’s goal to centralize mowing and maintenance responsibilities for City-owned properties under a single City agency.

CC: Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller's Office
KC Kelleher, Director of Communication, Comptroller's Office
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office