

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE Mayor

February 15, 2013

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o Karen Randle Room 400 – City Hall

RE: City Council Bill 13-0186

Dear Honorable Council President and Members of the City Council:

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 13-0186 introduced by Council Members Spector, Welch, Kraft, and Reisinger.

The purpose of the Bill is to prohibit a person from soliciting while the person is occupying or standing in or on any roadway, lane divider, or shoulder; defining certain terms; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to the regulation of soliciting and aggressive soliciting.

City Council Bill 13-0186, if approved, would repeal and re-ordain, with amendments Article 19 – Police Ordinances, Sections 47-1 and 47-4 of the Baltimore City Code – 2000 Edition.

It is the opinion of the Mayor's Office of Human Services – Homeless Services program, that the Bill strengthens the already existing Ordinance, thus providing greater safety protections for motorists, pedestrians, and persons who are soliciting.

Many of the persons who engage in aggressive solicitation in the areas specifically addressed in this Bill receive homeless outreach services on a regular basis and are made aware, when they choose to speak with Outreach Workers, of the resources that are available in the community regarding food, shelter, employment, etc. We would actively encourage police officers who respond to calls about aggressive solicitation to provide a "Street Card" to anyone with whom they engage, so that all are aware of resources that are available. Attached are copies of the Street Card in English and in Spanish.

Sincerely,

Kate Briddell

Director - Homeless Services Program

Attachment

Information / Crisis

24-hour Shelter Line 410-433-8145 and 1-888-817-4358 24-hour Information and Referral Hotline 211 (from a local phone) or 1-800-492-0618

Adult Protective Services 410-361-5000 Baltimore Crisis Response (Mental Health) 410-433-5175 Baltimore Health Care Access (Health Insurance) 410-649-0501

Child Protective Services 410-361-2235

Domestic Violence 410-889-7884

Drug Treatment 410-637-1900

BALTIMORE CITY STREET OUTREACH INFORMATION CARD













