



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

March 28, 2013

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, ^{HR} Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

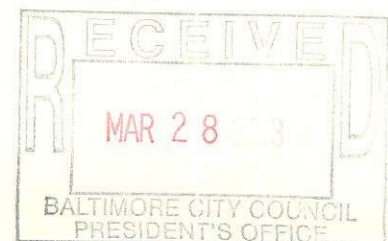
RE: City Council Bill No. 12-0152-TransForm Baltimore-Zoning

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 12-0152-TransForm Baltimore-Zoning which seeks to establish a new zoning code for Baltimore.

The BPD participated in several of the public hearings to discuss the proposed revisions to the Zoning Code and also met with the Planning Department and Health Department to learn about the overall proposal specifically focusing on the liquor store density throughout the City. During these meetings, BPD commanders expressed that there are a number of issues relating to crime and quality of life surrounding the concentration of liquor stores in our communities. The density issue is consistently among the top concerns raised by our community leaders and recent efforts have included the BPD support of changes in state law to limit the hours of operation of outlets in certain areas.

Overall public safety and quality of life for our citizens remain a top priority of the BPD. The department has made some significant progress in crime reductions over the last four years however continued efforts must be comprehensive to continue this trend. National studies and crime mapping in Baltimore conclusively show that alcohol outlet density has a direct impact on crime and that higher rates of crime are associated with geographic areas of concentrated liquor outlets. It is also clear that there are greater concentrations of liquor stores in Baltimore's lower income neighborhoods. Often the BPD dedicates resources to calls for persons gathering outside of these establishments and for nuisance type behavior, including open container, loitering, and litter violations associated with these places of business.

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The proposals outlined in revisions to the zoning code serve to gradually reduce the number of outlets while attempting to balance the concerns of the business owners. The department recognizes that there are competing concerns that have been discussed throughout this process. Please be assured that the BPD offers its full support and will continue to work with the City's collective efforts in this area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison