

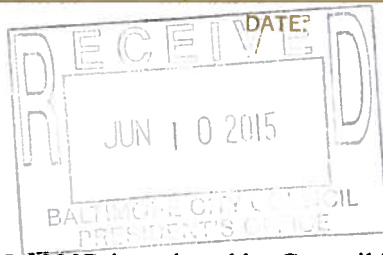
FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 15-0220R

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

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



June 9, 2015

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 15-0220R introduced by Council Members Holton, Young, Kraft, Henry, Middleton, Costello, Scott, Reisinger, Curran, Welch, Clarke, Spector, Stokes, and Mosby.

The purpose of this resolution is to request representatives from the Department of Public Works, and other City agencies working to make Baltimore cleaner, to appear before the Council to discuss the City's plan for cleaner streets and neighborhoods, the current results of this plan, and what additional steps can be taken to progress towards a cleaner Baltimore.

Although street sweeping has been in place for many years, it was previously based on a petition process meaning that only petitioned blocks were swept – about 30% of the city's streets. This created inefficiencies in routes and only swept a portion of the city. In 2014 the Department expanded to city-wide street sweeping, creating scheduled sweeping routes for 90% of the city's streets.

The program has faced some challenges in its first year of implementation. Sweeping in the outer four quadrants of the city requires residents to voluntarily move their vehicles twice a month on designated days. Voluntary cooperation with parking restrictions has been uneven and is especially challenging in densely-populated neighborhoods that have few on-street parking options. In addition, the more frequent usage of the older sweepers resulted in their breaking down with some regularity, making it difficult to complete the new sweeping routes. Eleven new street sweepers are in the process of being put into rotation and DPW is working with the Department of Transportation to post additional parking restriction signage for the central band of the city. The program will continue to improve as it becomes more efficient, signage is posted, and residents become accustomed to moving their vehicles.

In the fall of 2014, the Department began a proactive, city-wide rat abatement program. Under the new schedule, each alley in the city is on a 40-day rotation for inspection and baiting. In the next few months, this will increase to a 20-day inspection cycle as additional employees complete the hiring and training process.

Also in 2014, the Municipal Trash Can Pilot program began in certain neighborhoods in Belair-Edison and the Mondawmin area. The Department distributed 9,250 65-gallon trash carts on wheels and 25-gallon recycling bins in these neighborhoods. Thus far, the program has shown positive results and the cans are highly popular with residents.

These expanded programs, in conjunction with the Department's other services, contribute to improving the cleanliness of our neighborhoods. However, these programs alone cannot achieve a clean city – robust education and enforcement are necessary for success. Many sanitation issues could be resolved by each resident and property owner taking personal responsibility for their sanitation habits and the cleanliness of their property. This can be achieved through a combination of education and sanitation code enforcement.

Fav w/ Comm

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of the Baltimore City Council
June 9, 2015
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The Department of Public Works will be present at the upcoming hearing on City Council Resolution 15-0220R to discuss the opportunities and challenges for reaching the goal of a clean city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Dale Thompson for PC". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC/KTO:ela