


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Michelle Pourciau, Director	CITY of  BALTIMORE  M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 17-0144		

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

October 11, 2017

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 17-0144 Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events for the purpose of requiring that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event; creating certain exceptions and exemptions; and generally relating to the provision of City support to nonprofit events.

As proposed Council Bill 17-0144 would provide a 50% discount on city services and equipment for events where the net proceeds are to be used for the benefit of the non-profit, tax-exempt charitable or religious organizations and organizations that are not required to pay federal, state, and local taxes.

In Fiscal 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOT) provided services or equipment for over 300 reimbursable events. The cost to support these events totaled over \$667,000. If the 50% discount applied to these events, it would result in \$333,500 in revenue not being captured and those costs being covered out of other areas within the department's budget.

As a result of CCB 17-0144 two processes need to be established: one to establish proof of non-profit tax-exempt status; and, two to provide that the net proceeds will go exclusively to the non-profit tax exempt organization. The new verification steps will result in extending the time needed to properly review permit applications. Many event requests are submitted with less than four weeks until the event. DOT requests a minimum of six weeks for approval. This condensed review timeline limits the ability for agencies to properly review the application and provide analysis of what city services and equipment are needed. The verification of non-profit tax exempt status will add another layer onto an already complex process.

DOT objects to this bill because of the loss of revenue that the Agency will be responsible for covering from other areas of the operating budget, resulting in a reduction in overall transportation services that can be provided.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



Michelle Pourciau  
Director

MP/lw

Cc: Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office