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FROM		CITY OF BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennamo, Chief		
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941		
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #19-0139R, Investigative Hearing – Municipal Composting		

TO

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

DATE:  
May 2, 2019

City Council Bill #19-0139R has been introduced for the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, the Coordinator of the Office of Sustainability, and the City Arborist to update the City Council on the City's progress toward creating a municipal composting program, to provide a fiscal impact statement on creating the program, and to estimate a time line for Citywide implementation of municipal composting.

In February of 2019, DPW contracted with a vendor to do a waste sort in order to provide current information on the composition of waste collected in Baltimore. Over six days, 33 trash loads samples were sorted into 11 classification categories, including food scraps, mixed paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, mixed plastics, plastic number 1, plastic number 2, ferrous metal, yard waste/clean wood, and other/composite materials (such as diapers). In that sort study, 25.5% of sampled refuse was composed of food scraps, and 6.9% was composed of yard waste and clean wood.

The creation of a municipal composting program could remove items such as food scraps and yard waste from the City's waste stream for reuse. Currently, several local companies offer curbside compost pick-up services to households and schools in Baltimore City; each of those companies charges about \$32 a month for this weekly service. A cost benefit analysis concerning the creation of a composting program would provide information on the benefits, costs, cost savings, potential revenue, and sustainability of such a program. The Department of Public Works is currently conducting a master planning effort called the "Less Waste, Better Baltimore" Plan to identify options for improving solid waste diversion, recycling, and disposal in Baltimore City.

The Department of Finance has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0139R and will attend hearing for this resolution.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Jeffrey Amoros