

# TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Council President Brandon M. Scott  
FROM: Peter Little, Executive Director  
DATE: October 27, 2020  
RE: City Council Bill 20-0558



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 20-0558 (hereinafter the Bill) introduced by Councilmembers Dorsey and Sneed.

The purpose of the Bill is to require that the Department of Human Resources have a written policy regarding certain parking benefits; require the Department of Human Resources offer a public mass transit subsidy to every officer and employee of the City; require the Department of Human Resources offer a cash equivalent alternative to any City officer or employee entitled or eligible to receive a parking benefit; define certain terms; and generally relates to encouraging the use of public mass transit by City officers and employees.

The Parking Authority of Baltimore City (PABC) has reviewed the proposed legislation. PABC is not opposed to the City developing a parking benefit policy for employees but believes that all of the potential consequences should be examined before any mandatory implementation. The PABC is generally in favor of encouraging the use of public mass transit by City officers and employees but believes that the Bill will have a negative impact on City finances and does not account for or address the City's poor public transportation infrastructure.

The Bill would have the City pay officers and employees that choose to take the "parking cash-out" option. The City owns most, if not all of the facilities where the City subsidizes parking. So, any parking pay-outs would require new funding along with funding for the new transit benefit. The PABC defers to the City's Department of Finance on the potential cost, and PABC is happy to work with the Finance to determine, as much as possible, the likely fiscal impact of this Bill.

The goal of this Bill is laudable. However, alternative methods of achieving that goal should be explored and PABC would be happy to help explore other methods.

Based on the comments above, the PABC does not support the passage of Council Bill 20-0558.