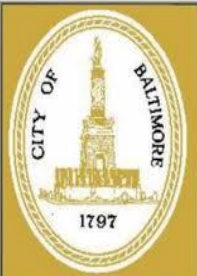


<b>FROM</b>	<b>NAME &amp; TITLE</b>	Matthew W. Garbark, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE  <i>MEMO</i>	
	<b>AGENCY NAME &amp; ADDRESS</b>	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill 21-0018		

January 25, 2021

**TO:**

Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

**INTRODUCTION**

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 210-0018 introduced by Council Members Dorsey, Burnett, Cohen, Bullock, Glover, and Torrence.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Bill is to require that Baltimore City Information and Technology (BCIT), in consultation with certain other agencies, submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating methods and systems of dispatching towing vehicles within Baltimore City; and provide for a special effective date.

**BRIEF HISTORY**

The Baltimore City Code provides for the removal of vehicles either by the Department of Transportation (Article 15 Subtitle 22 – Trespass Towing), or by the Baltimore Police Department (Article 31 Subtitle 22 Towing Services – Accident Towing). A person who is engaged in a towing service must have a valid towing license issued by the Director of Finance. The Code allows for exemptions from the towing license requirement for such purposes as persons towing their own vehicle, a towing service that brings a motor vehicle into or through Baltimore City from a point outside of the City, as well as towing services provided by a government entity.

The Department of Public Works, from time to time, may request towing services should one of its vehicles break down and require servicing, or if steel plates are to be removed from the right-of-way. Crews will call in the location of the vehicle or plate to be removed to the Control One dispatch system. Control One will, in turn, reach out to the Department of General Services. During the day, one of the yards (Lewin, York, Central Garage) will respond, usually within 2 hours. After 4 p.m. Control One notifies the “after hours” person, who will call a contractor to provide the towing service. Response times after hours can vary.

The Honorable President and Members  
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### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This legislation, if enacted, would require BCIT to work with the Departments of Fire, Police, Transportation, and Public Works, to produce a report containing a comprehensive evaluation of the "...cost, feasibility, and the respective strengths and weaknesses of at least 3 different methods of dispatching towing vehicles." The report would be due no later than 60 days after the Bill's enactment. This Department would not expect to incur any significant costs as a participant in the collaborative report.

### **AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION**

The Department of Public Works has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 21-0018, but would recommend that the Department of General Services be included in the production of the requested report due to their experience in managing the City's fleet. Further, in considering the dispatching methods, it would be beneficial to record internal towing requests in Cityworks, like any other work order, to track performance and balance resources as necessary.



Matthew W. Garbark  
Acting Director

MWG:MMC