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03/10/2021

Councilman Eric Costello, Chair  
Baltimore City Council – Ways and Means Committee  
100 Holiday Street  
Room 509  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Opposition to Bill 02-0029 – Commercial Parking Facilities- Annual License Fee

Good Afternoon Councilman Costello,

We hope this email finds you safe and well.

Founded in 1929, **SP+** has grown to be North America’s largest parking management company and operates more Commercial Parking Facilities in Baltimore than any other Publicly Traded Corporation. At its core, **SP+** provides professional parking management, ground transportation, remote baggage check-in and handling, facility maintenance, security, event logistics, and other technology-driven mobility solutions to aviation, commercial, hospitality, healthcare and government clients across North America. **SP+** has more than 40 parking facilities in Baltimore and over 400 employees in the DMV. **SP+**’s success and growth over the 90+ years is directly tied to our amazing partnership with local and state governments, clients and our employees.

I am writing you today to voice our collective opposition to Bill 20-0559 on behalf of our clients, employees and vendors that support this great city.

**What is at stake if Bill 20-0559 is Passed?**

**SP+** employs 60+ front-line Baltimore City Residents and another 50+ employees living in surrounding County’s that will be at risk of losing jobs if this bill is passed.

Like most industries, parking operators have been hit hard by the pandemic. Our revenues have fallen sharply while operating costs have remained relatively the same or in most cases, have actually increased due to COVID-19 Cleaning Protocols and PPE that we need to supply our front-line team members.

As it currently stands, our industry currently pays one of the highest tax and license fee compared to any other municipality in the Country and if passed, this license fee will ultimately be passed along to consumers and employees, putting the entire city’s economic recovery at a serious disadvantage.

The only feasible way we see to offset this proposed license increase would be to pass on this cost to the customers in the form of rate increases which is going to discourage downtown tourism. This leads to less hotel rooms, restaurant reservations, and finally less parking tax for the city since less people will be coming downtown.

Please let me know if there is any further detail I can provide at this time as it relates to our strong opposition to this bill or if you would like to schedule a call to discuss further.

Regards,

Scott Sacks  
Regional Manager

