

March 10, 2021

Mr. Eric T. Costello
City Council Ways and Means Committee Chair
City Hall, Room 509
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: City Council Bill 21-0029
Commercial Parking Facilities – Annual License Fee

Dear Councilman Costello:

I am writing to you and members of the City Council Ways and Means Committee in opposition to City Council Bill 21-0029. My company has been located in the Central Business District of Baltimore City since 1946. Our current location is 400 East Pratt Street and we employ approximately 120 people in our Baltimore headquarters.

I imagine many groups or individuals will express their opposition to the bill, and their concerns will come from quite a few major points of view. I personally wear many hats in the Baltimore business community but today, I come to you as an employer and concerned community leader.

1. Parking is a major concern and expense for employers and employees located in the Central Business District. We cannot afford a pass-through increase of \$5.10 to \$25.00 per 100 square feet. This type of increase computes to over 500% when including CPI adjustments.
2. Baltimore City is in the heart of the Greater Baltimore Region. Employers have options to move to Baltimore County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, Harford County and Carroll County where most parking is free. We cannot afford a continued deterioration of Baltimore City as we watch employers relocate to one of the surrounding counties.
3. The entire country is dealing with a pandemic and the aftermath could forever change the way business owners define their space needs. This is not the time for our tax base to give up on Baltimore City as a viable and attractive option.
4. Employers and their employees have crime and safety concerns in Baltimore City that are far more urgent issues to address if we want to save the Central Business District from further decline. A parking fee increase may very well push many of us over the edge.

In closing, I respectfully ask that members of the Ways and Means Committee vote “NO” to City Council Bill 21-0029. It would be in the best interests of our City, its employers, citizens and visitors. I can be reached at ebrake@ellinandtucker.com or 410-727-5735 if you need me to meet with you and members of your committee.

Very truly yours,



Edwin R. Brake
Chief Executive Officer

ERB/kmd/Parking License Fee Opposition Letter Ed Brake 2021.docx