

Councilman Wonders What Can Be Done About Dirt Bikes

By Steve Fermier and Robert Lang, *WBAL-Radio*, June 3, 2010

In the wake of two incidents in Baltimore City involving dirt bikes, a member of the city council is wondering just what can be done to stop the accidents and other incidents.

Councilman Bill Cole told WBAL's C4 today that although the bikes are illegal in Baltimore City, most people who own dirt bikes keep them locked up in basements, or at places outside the city, so police cannot seize them.

Cole also says police officers have been told they cannot chase those riding the bikes because of the possibility of accidents and lawsuits against the city.

In response to a caller, Cole said providing an off road facility for dirt bikes won't stop their use on city streets.

Cole said bikers shoot videos of themselves and post the videos on You Tube.

Cole's comments came one day after a Wednesday morning incident that is being investigated by city police.

Police say someone riding on one of the small scooter-cycles allegedly returned and beat up the driver of a car after the two vehicles collided.

The operator of the dirt bike was taken to Shock Trauma, as was the car's driver who was attacked and badly hurt.

Police said the dirt bike ran a red light at Monroe and Pratt and slammed into the car.

The bike passenger then returned with friends to attack the driver of the car.

City police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi told WBAL News that the dirt bikers will be charged after they get out of the hospital.

One is an adult, the other a juvenile. Neither is being named until charges are filed.