

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject/Position:	22-0117R – Informational Hearing – Baltimore Public Sanitation – Homeless Encampments Favorable		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

September 21, 2022

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #22-0117R, entitled, “Informational Hearing – Baltimore Public Sanitation – Homeless Encampments.” The purpose of this resolution is to invite representatives from City agencies to brief the City Council on potential strategies for mitigating waste left by homeless encampments, including a discussion regarding the procurement of a contracted service to clear hazardous waste from such encampments.

Refuse from encampments can pose health and safety hazards to encampment residents and to those around them. The refuse may include human waste, non-regulated trash, and used syringes. In order to help mitigate the amount of improperly disposed syringes in Baltimore City, BCHD has applied for and is being granted funds to expand harm reduction services with the safe disposal of used syringes. Through this pilot program, BCHD will work with communities to place syringe disposal kiosks in various locations throughout the city in order to allow residents to safely dispose of syringes, helping to address the hazards that come with syringe litter. Locations will be identified through a data-driven approach that includes community input. BCHD will be responsible for purchasing and coordinating the delivery of the machines, general maintenance, and emptying of the machines.

BCHD requests a **favorable** report on City Council Bill 22-0117R, and the Department will be present at the informational hearing and available to answer any questions.