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	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.		
	Subject	Council Bill 09-0113R- Automated External Defibrillators		

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

March 25, 2009

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to have the opportunity to provide comments on Council Resolution 09-0113R. This resolution requests the Director of Finance, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, and the Baltimore City Fire Commissioner to report to the City Council on the fiscal efficiency and public health efficacy of placing Automated External Defibrillators in City-owned buildings.

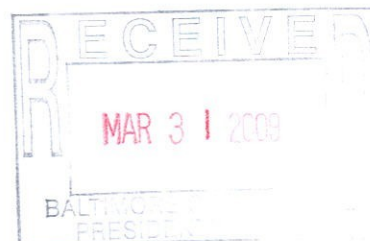
Locally, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in Baltimore City. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been proven effective in treating cardiac arrhythmias and ventricular fibrillation, which can prevent fatalities for our residents, if administered correctly. The AEDs may be used by laypersons in the event that a trained person is not available.

The New England Journal of Medicine published an editorial that stated successful resuscitation for only 2 – 5% of 225,000 individuals with sudden, unexpected cardiac arrests outside of a hospital setting while 17-38% success rates were noted with AEDs. According to an article published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, if an AED is used on one cardiac arrest every 5 years, one would gain \$30,000 per quality-adjusted life year compared with EMS-D care.

Health and Human Services released guideline for public access to defibrillators in the Federal Register on May 21, 2001. Defibrillators should be placed so that the optimal response time of 3 minutes or less can be achieved. In addition to training, the guidelines suggest a debriefing session for anyone involved when an AED is used. This will assist observers and AED users with any mental instability that occurred as a result of the event.

Any measures taken to prevent mortality from CVD should be taken, and the Baltimore City Health Department strongly supports efforts to expand access to AEDs. We look forward to continuing to work with the City Council to prevent unnecessary deaths from cardiovascular disease and provide support to the City's efforts to improve the health status of all its citizens.

Cc: Angela Gibson



Comments