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	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.		
	Subject	Council Bill 09-0140R – Informational Hearing – Bon Secours Baltimore Health Systems		

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

July 29, 2009

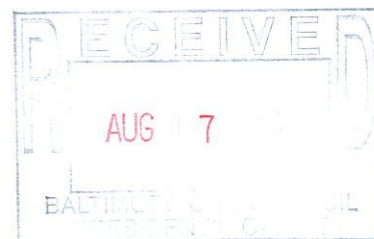
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 09-0140R. The purpose of this resolution is to invite the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bon Secours Baltimore Health System to share with the City Council the current operational and fiscal status of the health and social services corporation; and the forecast for the future continuation of delivery of health care and human services to the some of the most needy residents of Baltimore City.

Bon Secours Hospital remains a critical health service provider for the West Baltimore community. The Hospital continues to operate and is performing better than budgeted for the current fiscal year. They are experiencing increased patient volumes in their emergency departments, medical/surgical and psychiatry services and are serving an expanding for the Department of Corrections.

The Bon Secours Baltimore Health System is slated to receive \$5,000,000 from the State of Maryland. As a condition of this funding, Bon Secours will be required to submit a planning report to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the House and Senate Budget Committees. The report will provide:

- an analysis of the current acute care service gaps in the community and the investments required (both in terms of capital and ongoing operating subsidies) to make the Bon Secours Hospital financially sustainable in the short and long-term.
- a plan and process for designing a sustainable, primary care centric approach that meets the healthcare needs of the residents of West Baltimore.

In recent months, concerns have been raised about the fiscal and operational status of the Bon Secours Hospital. Decisions regarding closure of the Baltimore City Bon Secours Hospital can be made only by the Board of Directors or their parent company, and it is important to note that no decision has been made regarding the closure of Bon Secours Hospital. The executive team at the Bon Secours Baltimore Health System has been working to clarify this key point with a wide variety of stakeholders.



*Comments*

City Council Resolution 09-0140R provides both Bon Secours and the Health Department with a great opportunity to address concerns about the fiscal outlook for the Bon Secours Health System. We welcome the opportunity to share the operational and fiscal progress that the Bon Secours Baltimore Health system has made in fiscal year 2009, and we look forward to hearing input from the Council that may be valuable to the Bon Secours Baltimore Health system as they move forward with their short and long-term planning processes.

Cc: Angela Gibson  
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