

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERNEST W. BURKEEN JR., Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
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September 24, 2015

Honorable President Bernard Young
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 15-0238R**
Building on the Success of the Rec and Tech Center Model

Dear President Young:

The Department of Recreation and Parks is reporting on City Council Bill # 15-0238R. This Bill is for the purpose of commending the Digital Harbor Foundation and the Liberty Rec and Tech Center for their groundbreaking work that is bringing so many benefits to our community, and calling on representatives from the Departments of Recreation and Parks and Finance to appear before the Council to discuss how the City can allocate the necessary funding and other resources to enable other recreation centers to follow this model.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed the Bill and welcomes the opportunity to participate in a discussion related to the Rec and Tech Center Model. BCRP is very interested in providing well-rounded experiences for participants in our recreation centers. To that end, our main focus is on encouraging and developing physical fitness through leisure opportunities that include sports and exercise; however, we certainly respect the importance of technology in today's society. The Department of Recreation and Parks appreciates the idea of exploring the Rec and Tech Model for our recreation centers as long as there is a strong emphasis on a physical fitness component.

Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks has no objection to the intent of City Council Bill #15-0238R.

Respectfully yours,

Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr.
Director

EWB:VSO

cc: Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council

