

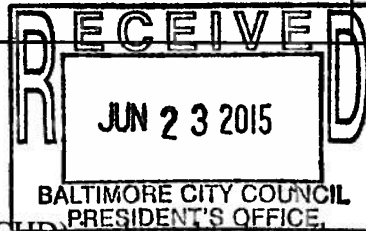


F R O M	Name & Title	Leana Wen, M.D., M.Sc. Commissioner 	Health Department	 MEMO
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0226R–Community - Economic Development in Struggling Neighborhoods		

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



June 20, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0226R. This bill directs the Health Department and other city agencies to report to the City Council on the community economic development tools available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City, how those tools are currently being used to develop and reinvest in neighborhoods, and how City agencies can further collaborate with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

BCHD's mission is to provide the highest quality services to help *all* residents realize their full health potential. Community economic development programs can provide opportunity, stability and safety which are critical to improving health in distressed neighborhoods. On a daily basis the Health Department provides direct services to residents; collaborates across agencies; engages with state and federal partners to garner resources; and works with health care providers, academic partners and other organizations to address the health care needs in our community.

Approximately 80% of the Health Department's budget comes from state, federal and private grants. We run many programs that serve our city's low-income residents, including: direct clinical services, a successful needle exchange program, Safe Street, food access initiatives, and B'More Healthy for Babies.

As a response to the civil unrest, the Baltimore City Health Department engaged in the following activities:

- Assisted hospitals and city and state agencies with emergency planning to ensure they could continue to serve patients; identified and addressed community health needs.
- Utilized 3-1-1 line during the unrest to ensure seniors received life-saving medications while pharmacies were closed
- Responded, through our partners at Behavioral Health System Baltimore and Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc., to developing mental health needs during the unrest.

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- Formed a team of Health Department Baltimore Corps Fellows to engage the community, particularly youth, in order to better address their health needs
- Created an emergency shuttle, food pantry, and medical supply pantry at the Sandtown-Winchester Senior Center during the unrest, and continue to provide transportation shuttle services to pharmacy, food and medical supplies for 10 high-rise buildings servicing seniors and people with disabilities in Sandtown.
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BCHD has also provided the following services for our community:

- Began senior emergency meal distribution to 56 sites during winter of 2015.
- Obtained funding (\$180K) to build a senior fitness center at the Waxter Senior Center to open the winter of 2016.
- Launched Care Giver Corner at each of the Enoch Pratt Free Library's 23 branches.
- Increased the number of senior congregate meal sites by 7 during this last year to total of 62 meal sites throughout Baltimore.
- Began a 12 month Senior Nutrition education placemat campaign at all 13 senior centers to provide info on 12 topics including transportation, benefits, legal, AARP caregiver rights, etc
- Moved Early Head Start program operating under the MCH program to offering center-based early education services for our most vulnerable infants and toddlers;
- Created and distributed the 2015 Senior Regional Resource Directory. We have distributed 25K copies with the 2016 directory in process.
- Launched the Grandparent Awareness Conference at the Reginald Lewis Museum in 2015, which included information on sex trafficking for grandparents taking care of grandchildren and legal issues concerning custody.
- Launched Waxter Wisdom as part of a yearlong campaign for African American History with Arena Players, which was combined with Caregiver and Hospice information and has been advertised via Grace and Glory which is distributed to all city churches.
- Significantly expanded the number of lifesaving trainings (for Naloxone administration) to substance abusers, family members and partners as well as expanded services to prerelease programs at the prisons.
- Expanded Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for substance abuse across its clinics, helping to combat behavioral health problems in the city and link residents to much needed treatment.
- Increased screening and treatment for hepatitis C.
- Launched smoking cessation campaign and second-hand smoke exposure campaign in partnership with CVS pharmacies.
- Released, in conjunction with various partners, the Mapping Baltimore City's Food Environment: 2015 Report to help guide food policy throughout the city.
- Saw 293,373 student visits in School Health Clinics, administering 90,129 doses of prescription medicines and performing 41,415 hearing and vision screens.
- Led emergency response to suspected case of the measles and multiple possible cases of ebola
- Convened leading pediatricians and emergency doctors for the Baltimore Statement on the Dangers of Powered Alcohol, resulting in a ban of the dangerous substance in Maryland

Furthermore, the following is a list of the work the Health Department hopes to accomplish in the next three months. We hope to launch several important initiatives aimed at addressing health disparities:

- Release Healthy Baltimore 2015 report and engage the community in development of next steps. This will be a public press event with the Mayor with leaders/members of the community in Fall 2015.
- Announce launch of online maps of health disparities and feature key assets that can be highlighted as helping to combat disparities. This will be Winter 2015.
- Launch B'more Heard listening campaign and heavily engage with social media on a campaign aimed at re-engaging disaffected citizens in our areas of greatest need, the campaign will feature blogs, spoken word, video content, and other media.
- Release reports from Population Health convenings with hospitals, FQHCs, universities, community members, and others to discuss school health, behavioral health, and ways that global budgeting can help us align priorities across the city.
- Release BMore for Youth blueprint for youth violence prevention together with public and private partners across the city.

We look forward to discussing issues of Community economic development and health with you further and appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Kristin Rzeczkowski, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Andrew Nicklas, Legislative Director, Department of Health