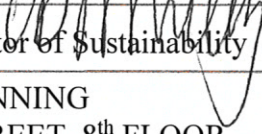



<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, Director of Sustainability 	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 <sup>th</sup> FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #20-0495 – Pesticide Control and Regulation		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street

March 12, 2020

The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #20-0495 for the purpose of regulating the use and application of pesticides in Baltimore City; defining certain terms; requiring certain notices at the time of pesticide purchase; requiring certain notices prior to and after pesticide application; requiring marker placement after certain pesticide applications; prohibiting the use of certain pesticides in specified areas; prohibiting the use and application of glyphosate and chlorpyrifos; prohibiting neonicotinoid pesticide use on City-owned property; establishing certain penalties; and providing for a special effective date.

The 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted on April 22, 2019) addresses the importance of reducing the use of pesticides in five separate chapters. The development of so many related actions reflects the human health impacts of pesticides as well as their negative effect on aquatic habitats and biodiversity. The specific excerpts from the Plan are:

Healthy School Environments

Strategy #1. Create a healthy physical environments in every school.

Action 1: Improve indoor air quality in all schools by eliminating pesticide usage, increasing use of approved green cleaning products.

Water in the Environment

Strategy #2. Improve aquatic habitats by increasing riparian restoration and water quality monitoring, and creating policies to eliminate sources of pollution.

Action 4: Develop and promote legislation and policy at the City and State level to reduce pollution of our waterways, including restricting the use of pesticides and herbicides and reducing the use of single-use plastics (such as plastic bags and beverage bottles).

Clean Air

Strategy #2. Assess and monitor how air quality varies across the city to identify neighborhoods in greatest need of improvement, and increase community awareness of

how air quality impacts the health of children, the elderly, low income communities, and communities of color.

Action 3: Adopt a policy or plan for eliminating use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals on public properties. Encourage integrated pest management and organic land care at hospitals, older adult facilities, restaurants and hotels, daycares, and other hospitality facilities.

### People and Nature

Strategy #1. Increase community connections to nature. Ensure it is done in culturally competent ways with early and frequent engagement.

Action 3: Connect with residents on ways to take action to support a diversity of species while healing ourselves and the nature around us. Examples include installing bat houses, removing grass and planting native gardens in yards, eliminating herbicide and pesticide use, preventing window strikes by birds, and safely disposing of home garden products containing neonicotinoids (a class of insecticide which is highly toxic to bees, and which is now illegal).

### Nature for Nature's Sake

Strategy #2. Encourage and increase sustainable land management policies and practices on public and private land, taking into account the context of surrounding neighborhoods and the impacts to residents.

Action 3: Develop and implement organic land care policies and/or plans, requiring the use of safer, non-chemical alternatives to chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and increasing use of organic land care. Adopt and follow the Precautionary Principle.

The Office of Sustainability looks forward to working with the Department of Health and others on an outreach and education campaign, similar to what has occurred with Council Bill #17-0117 Polystyrene Foam Products and will occur with Council Bill #19-0401 Comprehensive Bag Reduction. Effective community outreach and engagement with vendors and those who apply pesticides will be an important way to ensure compliance. The Office would use existing resources for such a campaign, but would need additional funding in order to undertake some of the actions mentioned in the bill.

**For these reasons, the Office of Sustainability recommends approval of City Council Bill # 20-0495.**

cc: Mr. Nicholas Blendy, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office  
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services  
Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services  
Mr. Chris Ryer, Department of Planning