

F R O M	Name & Title	Lindsay C. Cooper, Esq. <i>LC</i> Chair	Mayor's Anti- Abuse Advisory Commission MEMO
	Agency Name & Address	Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission 100 N. Holliday Street, City Hall Baltimore, Maryland 21202	
	Council Bill 13-0292 Animal Abuse – Reporting and Community Involvement		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o Karen Randle

March 25, 2014

The Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission (the "Commission") is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on Council Bill 13-0292 (the "Bill"). This Bill changes the method of submitting a verbal complaint from just 311 to now 311 and 911. The Commission agrees with other agencies that while some animal issues are non-emergency matters which would warrant a 311 call, there are other animal concerns that are true emergencies, hence the addition of 911 to this statute.

While the Bill's proposed reporting change may appear minor, its impact is powerful. By submitting this Bill, the City Council is acknowledging that imminent or currently occurring animal-related concerns could be considered emergencies for the purpose of 911. Passing this Bill is a great step forward in recognizing that animals are more than just property.

The Bill also provides for an expansion of the Commission, which will allow for increased public participation and awareness of animal abuse in our City.

The Commission is not fully constituted at this time and is unable to vote on its position on the Bill. The Commission defers to the Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter, Inc. on their positions on the Bill.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Valerie Rogers, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Dr. Patrick Chaulk, Commissioner, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health



*Refers to Health
& BARCS*