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| F R O M | Name & Title | Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health  | Health Department MEMO |  |
| | Agency Name & Address | Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street | | |
| | Subject | Council Bill 10-0445 – Public Ethics Law – Ethics Board Composition, Tenure, etc. - Ethics Training | | |

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

February 10, 2010

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to support Council Bill 10-0445. The purpose of the bill is to reconstitute the Baltimore City Board of Ethics and expand the requirements for mandatory ethics training for boards, commissions, and other multi-member entities. BCHD supports this bill, and its intent to clarify the requirements for the Ethics Board.

BCHD supports any and all efforts to strengthen the Baltimore City Board of Ethics, including this bill's provisions to alter the Board's composition, qualifications and tenure. Council Bill 10-0445 would serve a multitude of purposes, including the submission of an annual report and adding certain entities to the purview of the Public Ethics Law. The expansion of the requirements for mandatory ethics training for boards, commissions, and other multi-member entities, as well as the clarification in the requirements, would help BCHD and its entities ensure compliance with City ethics rules and regulations. This bill helps clarify when public servants must recuse themselves from participating in an official act, and makes clear from whom they may solicit or accept gifts. BCHD supports this bill, as well as any other steps undertaken by the Mayor and City Council to strengthen public trust in city government. BCHD's current code of ethics already requires the agency to comply with the current State and City Ethic Financial Disclosure Policy and all other City Ethics Policies.

BCHD fully supports this bill looks forward to the opportunity to implement Bill 10-0445.

CC: Angela Gibson

