

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
Room 400 – City Hall

City Council Bill 12-0121

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 12-0121 Food Service Facilities – Public Notice of Inspection Grades, introduced by City Council Member Scott, President Young, Council Members Kraft, Curran, Henry, Spector, Middleton, Mosby, Holton, Welch, Reisinger, Cole, Stokes, Branch, and Clarke.

The Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) strongly endorses Council Bill 12-0121, and would be happy to assign the personnel and resources necessary to provide for the public notice of health inspection grades.

MOIT recommends close coordination with the Health Department in the establishment and implementation of a grading and classification system for food service facilities. As the information technology agency for the City of Baltimore, MOIT is best positioned to cooperate with the Health Department in the design, implementation, and maintenance of a Food Service Facility Health Inspection Grades system.

Furthermore, MOIT believes that OpenBaltimore, the City's open data portal, is the best and most appropriate venue to host such data. Once a grading system is implemented in coordination with MOIT, MOIT can automate regular updates of the publicly available inspection grades.

As the central repository for substantial amounts of publicly available City data, OpenBaltimore is not only the most capable, but also the most convenient location to post this information online. The Health Department website is not currently on the baltimorecity.gov domain name, which may make it difficult for constituents to locate both the Health Department website and the data in question. Additionally, once hosted on OpenBaltimore, the data can be viewed on the Health Department website.

MOIT looks forward to additional discussion and review of this bill and will be happy to answer additional questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tonjes
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